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THE TIMES

Profile of the new Archbishop of Westminster, page 16

Ir Callaghan sets out iis Rhodesia plan today

allaghan, the Foreign Secretary, is to ace today Britain's latest proposals aimed ising the crisis caused by the collapse on of the Rhodesian constitutional talks n Mr Ian Smith and Mr Joshua Nkomo. itain remains committed to early majority d Mr Smith's weekend statements (report) suggest that the gap is as wide as ever.

Majority rule still crucial issue

l Spanier
ic Correspondent

gh well aware of extremely limited for action in finding a of the Rhodesia crisis, ghan, in framing the onstructive proposals, ently decided that one rt must be made.

dispensable condition ceful settlement, in the iew, is agreement by h regime on an early to majority rule. is usually thought to e or two years at the seems likely that Mr has been considering which this change accomplished in the of both white and black ns.

to the Foreign Secre- inking was given at the when he said in a tele- terview that the when of the transition could ked out later. The hould be rapid but not that people were en- L

les sometimes heard— it is not known if Mr n intends to raise such al issues today—might ritain to give assistance Rhodesians, both those ide to leave the country e who remain. Presum- ne British contribution called for, in the event nternational settlement in ia.

g the Government to ne in the "grave and ng" crisis in Rhodesia, handling, the Shadow Secretary, said yester- it British interests and rere too great for further ed inaction.

mith was right in refer- Britain's continuing ibility, though he was persuo entitled to say it was wholly inconsis- th his claim to continu- ependence. The Foreign nction was inadequate, alling added, because it n "wholly negative".

s true that Britain could if Mr Smith would not arly majority rule. "But ld also say what we can will accept it. For there ar deal we can do, both tiating a settlement and ng it work."

Smith's remarks at his conference about con- a return to British ony, however, are not ery seriously in White- f he had wanted to make ticable settlement, he have done so last week. Mr Nkomo, the African list leader, it is pointed

rtheless, Mr Smith's comments do suggest to bservers that he is show- strain of events, and will ttedly encourage many s.

Foreign Office confirmed lay that Britain was the party" referred to by rter, the South African Minister, in his statement e was prepared to with- draw his troops from southern Angola by March 27. This explains the series of meetings between British ministers and Mr Lunkov, the Soviet Ambassador, in London last week.

Britain's role was to secure, via Soviet diplomacy, certain assurances from the Popular Movement (MPLA) regime in Angola about the safety of the Cahueque dam, which South African troops had been sent in to guard. Whether this exercise was a British initiative or originated from the Soviet side is not clear, but in any case it does help to meet a basic British concern in southern Africa—that all foreign troops should be withdrawn.

However, it is being emphasized in London that the assurances which Mr Vorster is seeking are still being verified, so it is not yet certain that the South African troops will be withdrawn as intended. Moreover, the deal concerns only South African troops, and does not affect the Cuban forces in Angola in any way.

Southern Africa will be one of the main topics discussed when Mr Gromyko, the Soviet Foreign Minister, begins his official visit to London today.

But the cooperation achieved on the South African withdrawal, which suits both countries, would seem to be quite separate from the general problem of foreign intervention. Britain has urged the withdrawal of all foreign troops, whereas Moscow has strongly defended its right to support national liberation movements.

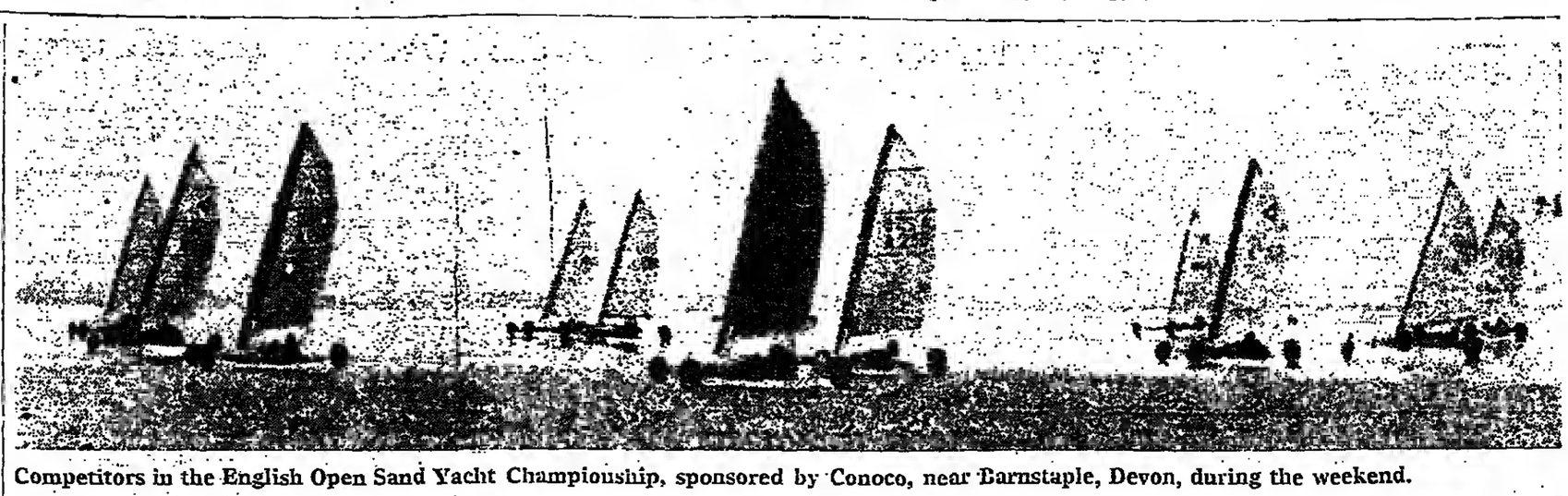
Mr Callaghan is also awaiting a report from Mr Shridath Ramphal, the Commonwealth Secretary-General, who has just returned from a visit to Mozambique on behalf of the Commonwealth sanctions committee, which has pledged aid to Mozambique. Mr Ramphal said after meeting President Machel of Mozambique in Maputo last week: "I was able to ascertain more fully the consequences to that country of its brave action"—a reference to Mozambique's closing its frontiers to Rhodesia.

"Their needs are great, and the world's obligation to them is of corresponding magnitude," Mr Ramphal said. He would be discussing the matter with Dr Waldheim, the United Nations Secretary-General, in New York later this week. While Commonwealth help for Mozambique is not in doubt, the United Nations has yet to decide on its wider role.

Our Lusaka Correspondent writes: Mr Mark Chona, President Kaunda's special roving assistant, has flown to London on what is described as a private visit.

Mr Chona, regarded as one of the Zambian President's closest aides, has taken a leading role in Dr Kaunda's efforts to avoid a racial war in southern Africa. It is believed here that his trip to London is a mission to brief the British Government on the breakdown in the South-Nkomo negotiations.

Vorster statement, and Smith 'concessions', page 7



Competitors in the English Open Sand Yacht Championship, sponsored by Conoco, near Barnstaple, Devon, during the weekend.

Police find new bomb factory in London

By Stewart Tendler

Officers from Scotland Yard's anti-terrorist squad yesterday questioned six people about the recent attacks on London Underground trains and other bombings after the discovery of a bomb factory in south London.

The factory was in a bed-sitting room in Longbeach Road, Lavender Hill. The news was kept secret until yesterday while officers arrested another four men and a woman in weekend raids.

Last Thursday the police found traces of explosives at the Brixton bed-sitting room of Mr Adrian Vincent Donnelly, who was found wounded after the explosion on a train at West Ham last Monday. The room at Longbeach Road is in the same area, and is also near one found earlier not far from Clapham Common. The three are linked by detectives as part of a chain.

Commander Ray Habershon, head of the anti-terrorist squad, said the explosives and materials found last week matched those used in the attacks on trains, including the commuter train bombed near Cannon Street Station.

Despite their successful discoveries the police are continuing their search for other possible factories or hiding places used by Provisional IRA members in London. Yesterday they renewed their appeal to landlords of bed-sitting rooms or furnished flats to come forward if their tenants aroused any suspicions.

The appeal was directed especially at landlords of short-let accommodation in bed-sitting room areas and Irish neighbourhoods.

When police raided the room in Longbeach Road they found explosives hidden in a wardrobe and other bomb-making material in the flour. The room, in a neat two-storey terrace house, was taken by a tall, fair-haired Irishman about three weeks ago. The owners of the house, Mr and Mrs T. O'Shea, let out three rooms and live on the ground floor.

The Irishman, who had recently come to Britain, took a room in the attic at the back of the house and lived a spartan life. His furnishings consisted of a bed, a wardrobe, a chair, a table and a sink unit. One of the other lodgers said yesterday that the man stayed at home much of the time and kept to himself. At night he could be heard pacing about his room.

Detectives believe that those responsible for the present wave of bombs are not members of the Provisionals' military wing but are drawn from Provisional Sinn Fein, the political side of the movement. They were infiltrated from the Irish Republic to form a cell in the London area.

But their military skill is rudimentary because of their background.

That explains why their devices have been far from successful. In some cases a simple timing device involving acid has been used to make the contacts for the explosions.

Move to tighten laws against terrorist groups in Ulster

From Christopher Walker
Belfast

A study group has been set up in the Northern Ireland Office with instructions to find ways of toughening the laws against terrorists, particularly leaders of organizations like the Provisional IRA, who order acts of violence but do not necessarily carry them out.

It is also examining the use made of material supplied to the security forces by paid informers. The group, which was established secretly earlier this year, has held several meetings. It is distinct from the ministerial committee on security whose existence has already been made public.

It is expected to draft proposals for a new broad offence of terrorism which will be included as an amendment to the Emergency Provisions Act when it is renewed in the summer. Other recommendations are likely to cover ways of exempting Northern Ireland from moves in the rest of the United Kingdom to relax the law on conspiracy.

The group includes senior Army officers, legal experts, high-ranking policemen, and British civil servants on secondment to the Northern Ireland Office. Explaining its purpose one official source told me: "There is an almost desperate anxiety in the Government that something should be done quickly. It is felt that now detention is gone the law should recognize that Portadown is not Purley and be modified accordingly."

Two recent events have added urgency to the group's work. The first was the failure to prosecute Mr Kevin Agnew, a member of Provisional Sinn Fein, who called for violent retaliation against British on the mainland for the death of Frank Stagg. The other was the Director of Public Prosecution's refusal to press charges of membership of the IRA against Mr Martin McGuinness, the Londonderry republican, who recently walked free from a Belfast court.

I understand that the group's deliberations have been split into four main areas. The most important has been the possibility of creating a new offence along the lines of that suggested by the Gardiner report early in 1975, which advocated that "being concerned in terrorism" should become punishable under the law.

Under that heading the group has been particularly concerned about the type of evidence on terrorist leaders which can be effectively used in court.

A suggestion that is believed to have been rejected after much discussion and internal disagreement has been the setting up of anything equivalent to Dublin's Special Criminal Court, which deals with crimes arising from the activities of illegal organizations. Between May, 1972, and July, 1975, it had a conviction rate of more than 73 per cent.

Much of the Dublin court's success has depended on its willingness to accept the evidence of a police officer of chief superintendent's rank or above as proof of a suspect's membership of the IRA.

In spite of strong pressure from the Army, the Royal

Continued on page 2, col 2

Labour centre strives to slow down the Callaghan bandwagon

By Michael Hatfield
Political Staff

The centre-moderate groups in the Labour leadership contest appeared to have but one thought last night, to reverse or damage Mr Callaghan's bandwagon.

Supporters of Mr Callaghan, the Foreign Secretary, in fact, expressed some relief that Mr Mason, Secretary of State for Defence, had decided not to enter the leadership elections, for which nominations close at noon today. Although he was not likely to have won many votes, the Callaghan group recognized that most of them might have come from their main.

Mr Mason said he had been persuaded on Friday by some trade union MPs and others outside the House of Commons to consider nomination. But yesterday he issued a statement saying: "I must recognize that the main contest bandwagons have begun to roll and that a substantial body of opinion within the parliamentary party seems to be committed. Therefore, to be honest, if I run I do not think I would get very far."

Mr Callaghan's rivals say that they can find no evidence of strong support for him: they detect a firm commitment of fewer than 60 votes in the first ballot. Mr Callaghan's supporters dismiss such claims as unrealistic and say that, even taking a pessimistic view, he will get more than 80.

A count by London Weekend Television's *Weekend World* programme in which 285 Labour MPs were spoken to, gave the following figures: Mr Foot, 66; Mr Callaghan, 51; Mr Jenkins, 32; Mr Wedgwood Benn, 22; Mr Healey, 13; Mr Crosland, 8; undecided, 29; and "not telling", 64.

Two MPs, Mr James Sillars and Mr John Robertson, have decided not to vote in the election, although they still receive the Labour whip, because they are now members of the Scottish Labour Party.

Ballot papers will be issued to the other 315 Labour MPs from 4 pm today. All MPs, except four who are sick, will have to collect their papers. The papers must be returned by noon on Thursday and the result will be announced at the parliamentary party meeting that evening.

Although there is a struggle among centre moderates over whether Mr Callaghan, Mr Jenkins or Mr Healey will come out top, the left's final candidate in the last ballot is likely to be Mr Foot.

Mr Foot, in a speech on Saturday, without referring to the vote spoke of the "unshakeable alliance between the Labour Government and the trade union movement".

Mr Callaghan remained silent over the weekend, but Mr Rees, Secretary of State for Northern Ireland and his campaign manager, told a meeting in Scarborough on Saturday: "The present relations between the supporters of those seeking to be leader of the party and the next Prime Minister are good natured and friendly.

"The next Prime Minister will lead us towards the 1980s. This will not be an easy task: 1977, 1978, and 1979 are the years in which it is essential that we climb out of our economic difficulties and be in a strong position to surge ahead in the 1980s.

"This will require hard decisions and no one should be under any delusion. If we are to succeed we must have a united country with a united Labour movement to lead it." Government-union alliance: Whatever happens in the leadership contest, it must lead to a stronger understanding and a deepening of the alliance between the Government and the unions. Mr Jack Jones, general secretary of the Transport and General Workers' Union, said yesterday (the Press Association reports).

"This is vital for the future of Britain and above all it must be reflected in the determined effort to keep jobs and gain more jobs until full employment is recovered in Britain", he said at Scarborough.

Voters' preference: According to a *Marplan* poll conducted in 50 constituencies (sample size: 1,514) at the weekend for BBC Television's *Panorama* programme, 47 per cent of Labour voters want Mr Callaghan to succeed to the leadership.

Mr Jenkins got 16 per cent of the votes; Mr Benn, 12 per cent; Mr Healey, 12 per cent; Mr Foot, 10 per cent; and Mr Crosland, 2 per cent. Among all voters the figures were: Mr Callaghan, 48 per cent; Mr Jenkins, 21 per cent; and Mr Healey, 12 per cent.

Regional views, page 2
Leading article and David Wood's column, page 15

Mr Gromyko arrives in London today

Mr Gromyko, the Soviet Foreign Minister, arrives in London today. Assessing the prospects for the visit, the London correspondent of *Pravda* writes about unflagging efforts of "influential circles" in Britain to prevent an improvement in Anglo-Soviet relations. Despite this, *Pravda* finds growing support in Britain for such an improvement from "advocates of a realistic course in foreign policy". Both *The Times* and *The Guardian* are praised for their optimistic views on the Gromyko visit. Moscow hopes the transfer of power to Britain's new Prime Minister will be effected smoothly and that there will be no snags for Mrs Thatcher to exploit.

Page 7

Miss Hearst faces jail after guilty verdict

From Peter Strafford
New York, March 21

Miss Patricia Hearst, the newspaper heiress, was found guilty of armed bank robbery in San Francisco yesterday. The verdict was reached after 12 hours of deliberations by the jury.

The jury rejected Miss Hearst's plea that she had acted under coercion in taking part in the bank robbery. They accepted the case of the prosecution that she had become a willing convert to the Symbionese Liberation Army, the group of terrorists that kidnapped her on February 4, 1974.

Mr Lee Bailey, the flamboyant lawyer who has been heading her defence, said after the verdict that he would appeal, but would wait until Judge Oliver Carter, who has been hearing the case, pronounced sentence on April 19.

Miss Hearst faces a maximum sentence of 35 years' imprisonment, 25 for taking part in a bank robbery and 10 for the use of a firearm. Judge Carter has considerable latitude in deciding what it should be, however, and could sentence her to no more than a period of probation. In making up his mind, he will take account of interviews with Miss Hearst by a probation officer.

Even if she receives a light sentence, however, Miss Hearst's troubles would not be over. She also faces charges of robbery, assault and kidnapping, arising out of an incident in which, as she admitted in court, she fired shots at a sports shop in Los Angeles in which two of her companions were in danger of arrest on shoplifting charges.

Throughout her trial, Miss Hearst made no attempt to deny taking part in the bank robbery, which occurred on April 15, 1974, some two months after she had been kidnapped. She maintained that she had done so only because of her maltreatment at the hands of her kidnappers and because she was afraid of being killed by them if she refused.

Her defence was supplied by a psychiatrist, but was challenged by other psychiatrists presented by the prosecution. Much of the trial was taken up by a conflict between expert witnesses, with Mr Bailey trying to discredit those of the prosecution.

The prosecution presented Miss Hearst as a rebellious young woman, who was already in conflict with her family and Mr Steven Weed, her fiance, at the time of her kidnapping. Much else told against her.

Mr Bailey's efforts were directed at keeping out of court a number of critical pieces of evidence, but he was largely unsuccessful. The jury heard, for instance, about a statement Miss Hearst had written about her conversion and this was very damaging to her.

At one point last month, Miss Hearst had recourse no fewer than 42 times to the Fifth Amendment of the American Constitution, which gives protection against self-incrimination. This was because she was being questioned about the various events that had taken place between her kidnapping and her

Continued on page 8, col 3

Union men on boards opposed

The National Consumer Council is opposed to the TUC's suggestion that the boards of large companies should contain trade unionists. It says that union members lack the necessary management skills and that more industrial disputes would occur because the unions, once integrated in management, would lose the confidence of their membership Page 4

Stagehands stop Giscard gala

A strike of stagehands at the Paris Opera obliged President Giscard d'Estaing to cancel invitations to 1,500 guests to attend a new Mozart production. The stagehands called a 24-hour stoppage for the occasion in an attempt to force through their demands for more pay Page 6

BBC orchestra threatened

The Academy of the BBC, the training orchestra for young musicians, is threatened with closure because the corporation is considering withdrawing its financial support. It costs £110,000 a year to run, which the BBC says is unjustified Page 5

Rector 'was asked to resign'

A rector says he was asked by his bishop to resign because he married a woman whose previous marriage had ended in divorce. He is the Rev John Burley, aged 58, of St Bartholomew's, Rednarley, near Gloucester. But the Bishop of Worcester said the resignation was voluntary Page 2

Immigrant fears

More than a thousand ethnic minority organizations believe that the Race Relations Bill, now before Parliament, will weaken the position of immigrants complaining against discrimination Page 4

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Spanish challenge

The Spanish right challenged the Government urging it not to negotiate with the opposition and to reject all political parties other than the National Movement. Page 6

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Business management: How Tube Investments have profited from their years under Lord Plowden; the need for a fresh approach to accountancy research
Business features: Peter Norman on unresolved questions about the fortunes and role of the German mark; R. W. Shakespeare describes how bluntness turned in sweet success for a Lancashire company
Business Diary: How the publicity surrounding the launch of big EEC loans this week could prove useful to a West German socialist

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ome of British ambassador in Lebanon maged by mortar shell explosion

ut, March 21.—A mortar exploded in the grounds e British Ambassador's here today, smashing win- and severing power lines ausing no injuries, an ssy spokesman said. The sador, Mr Peter Walke- aged 52, was inside at the

was not known who fired ell, one of several landing he residence.

Martin writes from Beirut: battered 26-storey Holiday hotel—a symbol of the dan's Right's defiance— the Muslim leftists today a massive assault spear- d by mutinous armoured of the Lebanese Army. apture of the hotel, one of rized pieces of real estate he Beirut street war, nstrated the new power of eft in Lebanon.

e three-pronged assault on Holiday Inn was launched as the Syrians tried erately to find a solution e latest and most serious in the country. At the time, Mr Kamal Jumblatt, left-wing leader, tightened grip on the two-thirds of non which are now firmly r the control of the leftist rebel forces.

ith numerous Muslem armies behind him and the Lebanese Arab Army and most of the guerrilla mainstream at his disposal, Mr Jumblatt faced his adversaries with a new military threat. Entrenched in his mountain command post in Aley, overlooking Beirut, Mr Jumblatt announced the formation of his "Fakhreddin forces," an army of predominantly left-wing Druzes.

While the Holiday Inn was changing hands today, the Christian leadership was meeting President Suleiman Franjieh in his beleaguered palace overlooking Beirut. Without the protection of the Syrians, through their forces in Lebanon, Mr Franjieh would soon be forcibly removed from the office which he is determined to retain. For the past 11 days, since the unsuccessful military "coup by television" against him, he has scornfully rejected all efforts to oust him.

But now time—which he so skilfully used to present his opponents with a virtual volte face—is against him. The fall of the Holiday Inn demonstrated the new military power of the Muslim left and Mr Jumblatt has made it clear that he is now preparing to unleash the formidable forces at his disposal.

The leftist capture of the Holiday Inn, the scene of some of the fiercest and most concentrated battles of the 11 months civil war, wrote another chapter in Lebanon's recent barbarous history. Headless bodies of Phalangist defenders lay in the hotel's entrance and in at least one case a body was dragged behind a car.

The Phalangists had held out in the Holiday Inn against a Muslim siege which began when the Muslim leftists won the upper hand in the seaside hotel district about five months ago. They used the skyscraper to snipe at Muslim areas, exacting a heavy toll on civilians as well as Muslim forces.

The fall of this position is a great psychological blow. Not only does it demonstrate that the balance of military power in the country has tipped in the favour of the Muslim left, but it has shown the Phalangists and the other rightist forces that any hopes of a military victory on their part must now be abandoned.

Moreover the fall of the hotel to the leftists, paves the way for a drive to secure the entire business area of the capital. The rightist forces are left with the task of defending about a quarter of a square mile between the hotel area and the port. To add to their problems, the leftists hold most of the high ground.

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Rector 'was asked to go' because of divorce case

By e Staff Reporter

A Church of England rector said yesterday thet he was asked by his bishop to sign e letter of resignation on the eve of his marriage to a woman whose previous marriage had ended in divorce.

The wedding was on Saturday, when the Rev John Burley, aged 58, rector of St Bartholomew's, Redmarley, near Gloucester, and Mrs Christine Baimbridge, aged 37, a state-registered nurse, were married in e Baptist chapel at Merthyr Tydfil.

"I signed the resignation letter, which was already typed out", Mr Burley said. "I knew what he was going to ask for, but I did not offer it until he said: 'Here's the resignation, will you sign it?'

"I said if that was what he wanted I would do it, because I did not want any more hurt caused to my new wife. Had I not signed, he said, he would have taken proceedings against me."

The rector's interview was with the Bishop of Worcester, the Right Rev Robert Woods.

The bishop denied yesterday that the rector had been forced to leave. He said: "Mr Burley voluntarily resigned his living. It is against the laws of the Church of England for a parson, particularly e minister, to marry someone who is divorced and the church's teachings are well known on this point."

Mr Burley's first wife died in December and Mrs Baimbridge moved into the rectory soon after as his housekeeper. It was alleged, Mr Burley said, that they had cohabited before their marriage, but that was untrue.

"My wife was the innocent party in her divorce", he said. "I believe that when there is a divorce the marriage is dead, but the church believes it goes on until one party dies."

There had been some feeling against him in the area, he added. "I have been accused of telling lies and being devious about this."

They had wanted to keep the marriage quiet because "it is a personal thing". His wife has two children by her first marriage, which ended six years ago. Mr Burley has three married children. "They are absolutely shocked by the uncompassionate side of this", he said.

He added that he would not be able to get another job in the church because he had been told by the bishop on Friday that he intended to tell all the other bishops of his action.

Mr Burley said he would be taking legal advice. He had been given 28 days to leave the rectory.

Mr Burley was ordained 10 years ago and has since worked both in and out of the diocese. Before his ordination he spent more than four years with the Mission to Lepers.

Change sought on handicapped

Fundamental changes in attitudes and training are needed to allow more handicapped people to be absorbed into the community, the National Association for Mental Health (Mind) said yesterday in evidence to the Peggy Jay committee of inquiry into the care of the mentally handicapped.

It said that it would like general practitioners, social workers and others to acquire more expertise

Views from four regions on Labour leadership struggle

Mr Callaghan may get 15 to 20 Scots votes

Many of the 41 Labour MPs in Scotland went back to their constituencies at the weekend. Despite the delicate state of the party in Scotland, however, it would be an exaggeration to say they have been putting anxious ears to the ground (David Leigh writes).

The main lines of support are set. On the left at least three votes will go to Mr Benn, and up to 12 to Mr Foot. Mr Callaghan, regarded as a unifier with the good relations a leader must have with the trade unions, should get between 15 and 20.

Mr Crosland has only one vote committed to him, but supporters of Mr Jenkins, led by Mr John McIntosh, MP for Berwick and East Lothian, hope for up to 11.

Although devolution is not determining many Scottish votes, it is having two effects. Mr Benn gets some support because he is thought to listen to "grass roots" voices. More significant, Jenkins supporters are arguing that Mr Jenkins would make Dr Dickson Mabon Secretary of State for Scotland in place of Mr Ross.

As a devolutionist, Dr Mabon, MP for Greenock and Port Glasgow, could give a lead in Scotland at a time when the Labour establishment there badly needs good public relations. Mr Callaghan might be more likely to favour the appointment of Mr Gregor Mackenzie, MP for Rutherglen, a quieter figure.

Mr Harry Selby, MP for Glasgow, Govan, said: "The constituents I have consulted all suggest Benn. I agree with them."

Wales: The leadership contest is of particular interest in south-east Wales because two of the main contenders have constituencies there; Mr Callaghan has been a Cardiff MP since 1945, and Mr Foot succeeded Mr Aneurin Bevan at Ebbw Vale in 1960 (Trevor Fishlock writes).

MPs who took soundings among their constituents over the weekend found strong support for both men. Some constituents who support Mr Foot are confused, even annoyed, over Mr Benn's candidature, fearing that his challenge will damage the left wing attempt on the leadership.

But some MPs found a solid core of support for Mr Benn among small groups of activists attending party meetings.

There is much backing for the Welsh-born Mr Jenkins. Some MPs expressed surprise at the number of times his name had been mentioned by constituents.

Mr Callaghan's campaign manager is a Welshman, Mr Rees, Secretary of State for Northern Ireland: he is also being supported by Mr Edward Rowlands, MP for Merthyr Tydfil and Under-Secretary of State at the Foreign Office.

Mr Foot's campaign is being managed by Mr Neil Kinnock, MP for Bedwellty, and Mr Caerwyn Roderick, MP for Brecon and Radnor.

Mr Healey's supporters, who believe that the eventual contest will be between Mr Healey and Mr Callaghan, include Mr Denzil Davies, MP for Llanelli, and Mr Barry Jones, MP for Flint, East, and Under-Secretary of State at the Welsh Office.

Yorkshire and North-east: Labour MPs in Yorkshire and the North-east were naturally reluctant yesterday to pin their colours to any particular mast. Some resented being asked to disclose their views (Ronald Kershaw writes).

Many of them are sponsored by trade unions. But although the *Tribune* group and other left-wing elements have in the past attracted the support of some trade unions on such matters as the EEC and defence cuts, the MPs they sponsored have voted in the opposite way. So, while some unions will favour Mr Foot and Mr Benn, the secret ballot will not make sponsored members accountable to their unions.

A general impression in Yorkshire and the North-east is that Mr Callaghan will receive most favour; his early beginnings are housed in trade unionism and his record in office is good. Mr Crosland is not mentioned in the reckoning in this part of the country.

Mr Jenkins is recognized as being capable of implementing tough policies for the overall good of the country, but he is regarded as too inflexible when it comes to taking into account the views of some left-wingers. One MP observed: "If Roy Jenkins were elected the Parliamentary Labour Party would embark on e perind of disruption never yet experienced."

Mr Healey, who is MP for Leeds, East, was variously described as "callous" and "too ruthless" with people opposing him, but capable of breaking up when facing group opposition; on those grounds it was felt he would not win.

Midlands: A random sample of Midlands MPs' voting intentions disclosed no descernible pattern (Arthur Osman writes).

Three declared their preference for Mr Foot: Mr Geoffrey Edge (Aldridge-Brownhills), Mr Gwilym Roberts (Cannock) and Mr Bruce George (Walsall, South). But Mr George added that he would be mandated after a meeting of his constituency party on Friday. "I shall seek to persuade them to my view but I feel this is a matter on which I should be mandated", he said.

Among Mr Benn's supporters are two Coventry MPs, Mr William Wilson (South East) and Mrs Audrey Wise (South West), who say they have the support of their local party in their choice. Mr George Park (Coventry, North East) declined to say whom he would vote for but said he had consulted local party officials. "There is no question of a constituency directing an MP; although their advice is always welcome", he said.

Mr Jenkins, who is MP for Birmingham, Stechford, can count on the vote of Miss Betty Boothroyd (West Bromwich, West) among others.

Callaghan supporters include two Birmingham MPs, Mr Raymond Carter (Northfield) and Mr Roy Hattersley (Sparkbrook). Mr Hattersley hopes to discuss the matter with local party members tomorrow.

Leading article, page 15
David Wood's column, page 15

Mrs Thatcher opens fire on Chancellor

By Our Political Staff

The Government's economic strategy and Mr Healey, Chancellor of the Exchequer, were criticized by Mrs Thatcher, Leader of the Opposition, on Saturday.

Speaking at the Conservative Party's central council meeting in Norwich, she said that if Labour stayed in power Britain would be spending more on just paying the interest on its debts than the country planned to spend on the education system, defence, or the health service.

"Mr Healey will go down in history as the hire-purchase Chancellor whose slogan was 'This year, next year, sometime never-never'", she said. "reason enough, you may think, reason ten times over, for sending this pitiful administration packing."

Every step the Government took to seize more power over people's daily lives diminished those lives and the freedom which was their essence and their strength. "One of our principal and continuing priorities when we are returned to office", she said, "will be to restore the freedoms which the socialists have usurped."

Of the White Paper on public spending, she said that ministers, "spurred on no doubt by their lengthening queue of creditors", had promised to *take an axe to their spending* plans and put the economy back on course.

"Then they announced their plans. And what did we discover? Far from a fall in government spending it is actually going to increase by over £7,000m over the next five years, and that is before any allowance is made for inflation.

"So much for the Iron Chancellor. I begin to wonder if the Russians were not right. Perhaps this country needs an Iron Lady.

"In total there are not going to be any spending cuts at all this year or next. But there are, we are promised, to be cuts in some of the programmes which the Government were planning to carry through, in three or four years' time, with money they will not have. Where is the virtue in that?"

Suggesting a speech the Chancellor might make on Budget day, she said: "Mr Speaker, I, Denis Healey, stand on my record. No Chancellor has raised taxes so high. No Chancellor has borrowed so much. No Chancellor has presided over such a large increase in prices. And no Chancellor since the war has seen such a high level of unemployment. In other words, you know Labour government does not work.

"Despite all this, I would still like to be leader of the Labour Party one day; and that day may yet come because, you see, if the Labour Party is foolish enough to have me as Chancellor, they are fool enough for anything. Anyone who thinks they are not must be out of their tiny Anglo-Saxon minds."

For the Conservative Party this was a time of special responsibility, she added. Socialism had been tried and found wanting. The Conservatives would not fail.

Commission replies on Fleet Street earnings

The Royal Commission on the Press is to publish details of how it collected statistics about earnings in Fleet Street, it was announced yesterday.

Professor O. R. McGregor, commission's chairman, issued statement which said:

I have read criticism in today's *Sunday Times* of the methods and procedures adopted by the commission in the course of collecting and presenting statistics about earnings in Fleet Street.

In order to prepare our interim report we were compelled to undertake a pioneering statistical investigation and to deploy data about the occupation, earnings and age structure of the whole working force never before available.

The commission were enabled to accomplish this in time by the wholehearted cooperation of the publishers.

We will be publishing an account of our statistical methods and procedures to supplement that contained in our interim report.

I reject entirely the implication in the *Sunday Times* article that the procedures were unsatisfactory, and I state without reservation that the statistical data presented in the tables and commentary of the report are reliable and that the conclusions drawn from them are realistic.

As for the criticism made of the comparison drawn by some commentators between the earnings of editorial and production workers, the statistics published in the report fully justify the significant conclusion which is reached, that the average earnings of editorial employees rise in a pyramid from the base of the high earnings of production employees.

Peter Wilsher of "The Sunday Times" writes: It would still seem to me to be more satisfactory if Professor McGregor were to explain his statistical methodology more fully, and if, in particular, he were to explain why the disputed £360.50 a week for a group of journalists was changed to £240 a week.

That is e large discrepancy and if such discrepancies can creep in, doubt must be cast on any other figure.

Move to tighten laws on IRA membership

Continued from page 1

Ulster Constabulary is understood to oppose exposing its members to more individual attacks by starting such a system. In addition, the Government is not anxious to be asked to play such a role when the policy is to improve acceptability in republican districts.

But the main reason for the group's rejection of such e system in Northern Ireland is understood to be the attitude of Mr Rees, Secretary of State, who is proud of ending detention. He is thought to regard the establishment of a special court as bringing it back again in a different guise.

Civil servants on the new study group recognize that the Government's attitude could change under a new Secretary of State.

A second area the group has been investigating is the tightening of laws on membership of the IRA.

Another area of study is the operation of laws such as those of incitement, aiding and abetting, conspiracy, counselling and procuring. There is a strong belief that those could be used more stringently against people suspected of organizing terrorism.

More significant has been the group's work on reviving laws of sedition and treason. I understand that much of its time has been spent studying the little known Treason Felony Act, 1848, with a view to rewriting it in modern terminology for use against those responsible for the continuing bloodshed in Northern Ireland.

The statute which the group has been examining states:

If any person whatsoever shall, within the United Kingdom or without, compass, imagine, invent, devise, or intend to deprive or depose our most gracious Lady the Queen . . . from the style, honour, or royal name of the Imperial Crown of the United Kingdom, or of any other of her Majesty's dominions and countries, or to levy war against her Majesty . . . within any part of the United Kingdom, in order by force of constraint to compel her . . . to change her . . . measures or counsels, or in order to put any force or constraint upon, or in order to intimidate or overawe both Houses or either House of Parliament, or to move or stir any foreigner or stranger with force to invade the United Kingdom, or any other of her Majesty's dominions or countries under the obeisance of her Majesty . . . and such compassings, imaginations, inventions, devices, or intentions, or any of them, shall express, utter, or declare by publishing any printing or writing . . . or by any overt act or deed, every person so offending . . . shall be liable . . . to be imprisoned for the term of his or her natural life.

No final decision has been made about whether to rewrite that law, but it is recognized that the Government would find it much easier to do so than draft new legislation to counter terrorism.

BR tune an 'insult'

British Rail's decision to spend £100 on commissioning a tune to celebrate the forthcoming 125-mph train was described yesterday by Mr Michael Brotherton, Conservative MP for Louth, as an "insult to the taxpayer".

PC on assault charge

Police Constable Ronald Alec Prevett, aged 29, of Main Road, Cannington, Somerset, was charged on Saturday at Bridgwater with indecently assaulting and attempting to rape a girl, aged 13. He was remanded on £500 bail until April 5.

Rudolf Nureyev, the ballet dancer, with Beryl Grey, of the London Festival Ballet, discussing next June's Nureyev Festival.

Separated wife lost home over mortgage

A wife who was separated from her husband was evicted after he stopped mortgage repayments on their home. Then he paid the arrears and moved into the house.

The case, which was never fully settled, shows one of the difficulties facing divorced or separated women in their dealings with building societies, according to a new magazine published today. It urges a change of approach by building societies and local authorities.

The article, in *Roof*, a housing publication from Shelter, the national campaign for the homeless, says divorced or separated wives with children are particularly exposed to homelessness.

"Building societies and other mortgagees are too ready to adopt their powers of possession and sale", says the author, Jo Tunnard, a welfare rights worker. "Local security offices fail to follow official policies laid down by the Supplementary Benefits Commission, particularly as regards paying interest charges on mortgages"

In the case cited, the wife, who lives in Barton-in-the-Clay, Bedfordshire, and her three children were rehoused by the council.

Archbishop's call 'medieval'

The Archbishop of Canterbury's sponsorship of a national week of prayer in commemoration of the million foetuses aborted since the 1967 Abortion Act became law was criticized yesterday by the National Secular Society.

Describing Dr Coggan's action as "the latest indication of medieval superstition lingering on in the established church", the society said a prayer week for children killed and maimed on the roads would have been more relevant.

Correction

A report on the Scottish universities on Saturday wrongly suggested, because of e misprint, that Mr Ross, Secretary of State for Scotland, was retiring.

Yachtsmen win concessions in Anglian water Bill

By Martin Huckerby
Political Staff

Petitions from yachtsmen in East Anglia have helped to gain concessions in the Anglian Water Authority's plans for control over many yachting harbours in the area.

The Anglian Water Authority Bill, a private Bill before the House of Lords, would have given the authority control over estuaries along the coast. The authority has agreed to relinquish its claims to the estuaries, amending a clause in the Bill to exclude waterways controlled by navigation authorities or forming part of estuary waters or arms of the sea.

The Bill was due for its second reading in the Lords some time ago. That had to be postponed when the authority realized several peers intended to object to the Bill.

Mr Keith Stainton, Conservative MP for Sudbury and Woodbridge, who has been aiding the yachtsmen in the dispute, said yesterday that 22 petitions had been presented against the Bill and most of their objections had been met by the amendments.

Areas involved include such yachting centres as the rivers Crouch, Orwell and Deben, which have their own local systems of control.

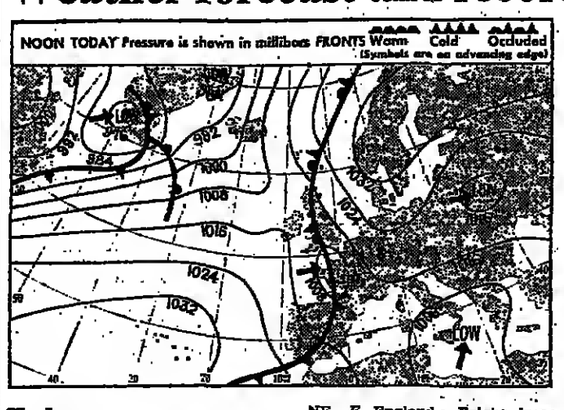
Action urged to preserve school religion

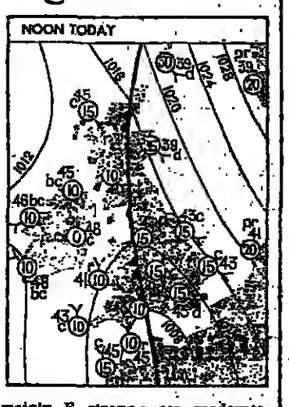
Christian education in state schools was being threatened, and unless action was taken it would soon be too late to save it, the Order of Christian Unity said yesterday.

Lady Lothian, chairman of the organization, said in a booklet that e considerable challenge to the survival of Christian education comes from the proposed Bill of the British Humanist Association which seeks to repeal the law stipulating daily assembly for worship in schools.

Christian Education in State Schools Should be Saved (Order of Christian Unity, 20p).

Weather forecast and recordings





Today

Sun rises: 6.59 am | Sun sets: 7.17 pm
Moon rises: 2.20 am | Moon sets: 11.0 am
Last Quarter: 7.54 pm

Lighting up: 7.47 pm to 6.26 am. High water: London Bridge 7.3 am, 6.8m (22.3ft); 7.29 pm, 6.4m (21.0ft). Avonmouth 12.4 am, 11.7m (38.5ft); 12.28 pm, 11.1m (36.5ft). Dover 4.10 am, 6.1m (20.0ft); 4.41 pm, 5.8m (19.0ft). Hull, 11.25 am, 6.5m (21.2ft). Liverpool, 4.23 am, 8.5m (27.8ft); 4.52 pm, 8.0m (26.4ft).

A ridge of high pressure will develop over N Britain as a low to the SW moves across N France.

Forecasts for 6 am to midnight:

London, East Anglia, E Midlands, central N England: Mostly dry, bright intervals; wind E, moderate or fresh; max temp 7°C (45°F); slight frost at first.

SE, central S England: Cloudy, a little rain or sleet; wind E, fresh; max temp 7°C (45°F).

NE, E England: Bright intervals, a few wintry showers; wind E, fresh or strong; max temp 6°C (43°F).

Channel Islands: Cloudy with rain, heavy at times; wind E, fresh or strong; max temp 8°C (46°F).

SW England, S Wales: Rain or sleet with snow on hills, becoming mostly dry later; wind N, moderate; max temp 7°C (45°F).

W Midlands, N Wales, NW England, Lake District, Isle of Man, SW Scotland, Glasgow: Rain at first, bright intervals later; snow on hills; wind E, fresh; max temp 7°C (45°F).

NE, NW Scotland, Argyll: Cloudy, rain or sleet at first; wind S, moderate; max temp 7°C (45°F).

Outlook for tomorrow and Wednesday: Becoming mostly dry with bright intervals; wintry showers in E, cold with night frost.

Sea passages: S North Sea, Strait of Dover: Wind S, strong; sea very rough.

English Channel (E): Wind cyclonic, variable, fresh becoming mainly E strong; sea moderate, becoming rough.

St George's Channel: Wind NE, fresh or strong, becoming moderate; sea moderate or rough.

Saturday

London: Temp: max 6 am to 6 pm, 10°C (50°F); min 6 pm to 6 am, 3°C (37°F). Humidity, 6 pm, 55 per cent. Rain, 24hr to 6 pm, nil. Sun, 24hr to 6 pm, 10.1hr. Bar, mean sea level, 6 pm, 1,022.9 millibars, falling.

Yesterday

London: Temp: max 7 am to 7 pm, 9°C (48°F); min 6 pm GMT to 7 am, 3°C (37°F). Humidity, 7 pm, 40 per cent. Rain, 24hr to 7 pm, nil. Sun, 24hr to 7 pm, 3.3hr. Bar, mean sea level, 7 pm, 1,010.7 millibars, falling.
1,000 millibars=29.53in.

WEATHER REPORTS YESTERDAY MIDDAY: c, cloud; f, fair; r, rain; s, sun; sn, snow.

		C	F			C	F			C	F			C	F
Amsterdm	s	5	41	Copenhgn	s	0	32	Lisbon	f	15	59	New York	c	16	61
Athens	f	16	61	Dublin	c	9	48	London	f	8	46	Oslo	s	5	41
Barbados	f	27	81	Edinburgh	r	0	41	Luxembrg	s	4	39	Paris	s	9	48
Barcelona	s	15	59	Funchal	s	17	63	Madrid	f	17	63	Reykjavik	c	3	38
Beirut	f	18	64	Geneva	s	2	36	Majorca	f	17	63	Rome	f	13	55
Berlin	f	11	52	Gibraltar	f	17	63	Malaga	f	20	68	Ronaldsy	f	7	45
Bermuda	c	23	73	Guernsey	r	6	43	Malta	r	15	59	Stockholm	s	-2	28
Biarritz	s	16	61	Helsinki	s	-3	27	Madrid	s	28	82	Tel Aviv	s	17	63
Brussels	s	6	43	Innsbruck	s	4	39	Montreal	r	6	43	Venice	f	9	48
Budapest	f	1	34	Istanbul	fog	3	38	Moscow	sn	-3	27	Vienna	f	-1	30
Chicago	c	0	32	Jersey	r	7	45	Munich	s	-2	28	Warsaw	sn	-1	30
Cologne	s	4	39	L Palmas	c	17	63	Naples	c	13	55	Zurich	s	3	37

Overseas selling prices
Austria, Sch 15; Belgium, Btr 35; Canaries, Pes 40; Denmark, Dkr 5.70; Finland, Fmk 3.50; France, Frs 3.00; Germany, Dmk 1.00; Greece, Dr 35; Holland, Dfl 1.75; Italy, Lire 350; Luxembourg, Lfr 30; Madeira, Esc 17.50; Malta, 9c; Norway, Kr 4.00; Portugal, Esc 20; Spain, Pes 35; Sweden, Skr 3.75; Switzerland, Sfr 2.50; USA/Canada, $1.00; Yugoslavia, Din 20.

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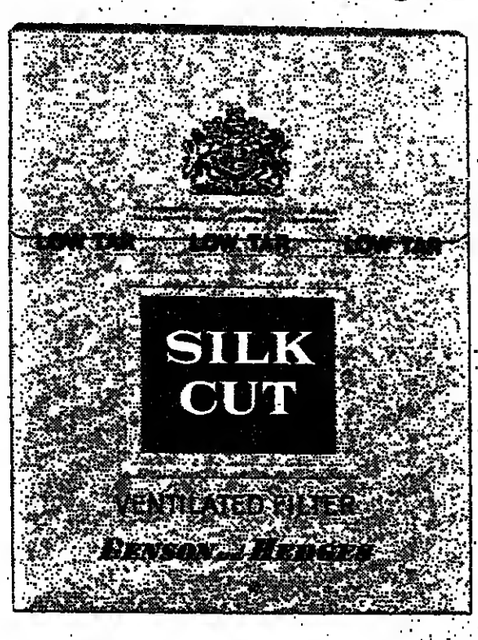

LOW TAR.*	LOW TO MIDDLE TAR.*
Silk Cut Number 3.	Embassy Extra Mild King Size.
Silk Cut Number 1.	Embassy Extra Mild.
Silk Cut Regular.	Player's No. 10 Extra Mild.
Silk Cut Extra Mild.	Sovereign Extra Mild.
Silk Cut King Size.	
Silk Cut International.	

For the full list of cigarettes defined as Low Tar, see the Government Tar & Nicotine Yield table.

*As defined by H.M. Government.

SC13

LOW TAR (Silk Cut) As defined by H.M. Government LOW TO MIDDLE TAR (Embassy Extra Mild King Size. Embassy Extra Mild. Player's No. 10 Extra Mild. Sovereign Extra Mild.)

EVERY PACKET CARRIES A GOVERNMENT HEALTH WARNING

Idea of trade union directors opposed by consumer council

By Paul Routledge
Labour Editor

The National Consumer Council has added to the growing tide of opposition to the TUC's suggestion that trade unionists should be on the boards of large companies.

In evidence to the Bullock committee on industrial democracy, the council says that if the unions' demand for statutory supervisory boards of management with equal union and employer representation is met, the interests of consumers will suffer.

The council's six-page submission, published today, argues that the government-appointed inquiry should not allow labour and capital to "carve up" industry and create "a modern version of the corporate state".

Mr Michael Young, chairman of the council and author of the evidence, said yesterday that the TUC's proposals would not even be good for the unions. "Trade unions would be very involved in management, and we think the confidence of their members would be reduced, leading to more industrial disputes."

He described as "a good deal more helpful" the CBI's suggestion of participation agreements in industry that would give workers a right to consultation on many matters. If the Bullock inquiry approved the TUC's views, he added, "they will greatly regret it in five or ten years".

Arguing that there are not enough experienced trade unionists to fulfil the TUC's aims, the council's submission says: "Management is a skilled business. Not many trade unionists—certainly not over five thousand of them—would claim to be able to add greatly to the stock of managerial expertise."

The council calculates that if the TUC policy was adopted in law, 5,500 trade unionists would have to be found to be made directors.

It adds: "The proposed change would entail many years of upheaval while the existing companies legislation was all redrawn and, more still, as the thousands of new trade union directors began to be appointed and to fill out their new roles. Industry is going to have a tough enough time to recover and to restore full employment without having that added burden to bear.

"A particularly baneful effect of the threat of codetermination would be that investors might fight shy of putting their money into new equipment when it was unsure who was in the end going to control the way it was used."

Because of their sectional interests, trade unionists could not champion the generality of consumers, and the council insists: "If the TUC proposals do in the end win the day, the NCC is fully convinced that to balance representatives of the employees there must be representatives of consumers as well, to prevent the kind of carve-up that would otherwise occur."

Home Office and MPs to get reports on fears of ethnic minority groups

Coloured people 'may be worse off under race Bill'

By Peter Evans
Home Affairs Correspondent

The belief that some of the main provisions of the Race Relations Bill, now before Parliament, will leave black people worse off has emerged from consultations with representatives of well over a thousand ethnic minority organizations. They are being gathered from regional conferences by Mr Surendra Kumar, principal liaison officer at the Community Relations Commission.

A conference in London on Saturday, for the southern region was the penultimate in the series. The last will be for London organizations.

Mr Kumar told me yesterday that a full report would be sent to all MPs, the Home Office and representatives of all the ethnic minority organizations.

Concern has been expressed at all four conferences so far held that, although the proposed new Race Relations Commission will be empowered to assist individuals who complain of discrimination, they will be in a weaker position *than now*. The belief is that the Race Relations Board, for all its faults, can provide more help than will be available under the new arrangements.

Mr Kumar said that they knew from experience that people were reluctant to go to a conciliation committee. "With this new law they will have to go to courts and tribunals almost invariably by themselves and be faced with all the technical problems of presenting a case. Unless support is devised, people will not be able to take advantage of this."

The commission have been asked to see if the Bill can include powers for skilled investigators to prepare and present cases for complainants.

Some of the fears expressed about the Bill imply that it will not remove discrimination in *some* of the posts to which immigrants and their families aspire.

The reference is to section 10, which covers partnerships in firms with six or more partners. Immigrants in the professions say that that will exclude perhaps most doctors' practices, accountancy firms and firms of solicitors. Many businesses also will be immune.

Asians in particular argue that the exclusion is a blow to the aspirations of their children, who are beginning to seek entry to the professions.

One unexpected viewpoint was that if a clause in the Bill covering incitement to racial hatred cannot provide meaningful protection, it might as well be removed, as it otherwise gives a false feeling of security.

Alternatives discussed at the conferences were that either the commission should be allowed to institute proceedings on their own or the clause should be incorporated in the Public Order Act. Disappointment was expressed that the Government had not sought to make the dissemination of racist propaganda a criminal offence, although ethnic minority organizations believe it is increasing.

The Bill preserves the offence of incitement to racial hatred, but it will no longer be necessary [illegible] intention [illegible] hatred. Instead, it will be sufficient to prove that the threatening, abusive or insulting words were used or published in circumstances in which it was likely that racial hatred would be stirred up.

The view has repeatedly been expressed at the conferences for the new statutory body brought into being by the Bill to be called the Equal Rights Commission, rather than the proposed Race Relations Commission. The body will replace both the Race Relations Board and the Community Relations Commission. It is felt that the words "equal rights" do not imply the vagueness of law which has plagued the present Community Relations Commission.

The Queen sees Princess at Windsor

The Queen drove along Long Walk, Windsor Great Park, yesterday, from Windsor Castle to Royal Lodge, to see Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother and Princess Margaret, who spent the weekend there.

They later went to morning service in the royal chapel of All Saints. The Queen, her mother and sister lunched afterwards at Royal Lodge and later walked in the private grounds.

The first public response from Lord Snowdon, aged 46, to the Kensington Palace statement that he and Princess Margaret had mutually agreed to separate after almost 16 years of marriage came on Saturday in Australia, where an exhibition of his photographs is being staged.

He said in Sydney that he was desperately sad in every way that this had to come.

"I would just like to say three things: firstly, to pray for the understanding of our two children; secondly, to wish Princess Margaret every happiness for her future; thirdly, to express with the utmost humility my love, admiration and respect I will always have for her sister, her mother, and indeed her entire family."

Kensington Palace denied on Saturday that any statement by Mr Roderick Llewellyn, aged 28, a friend of Princess Margaret since 1973, had been vetoed. The Press Association's Court Correspondent said that Mr Llewellyn had telephoned Lord Napier, Princess Margaret's private secretary, at Kensington Palace, apparently to seek advice.

Four rescued from fire at city club

From Our Correspondent
Liverpool

The Shakespeare cabaret club, in Fraser Street, in the centre of Liverpool, formerly one of the best known music halls in the provinces, was destroyed in a fire yesterday.

When the outbreak was discovered the building was well alight and firemen with ladders rescued the manager and three members of his staff, one a woman. They had been asleep and were trapped on the second floor. They were treated for shock.

Soon after the first fire crews arrived a rear wall collapsed and a station office and three firemen were hurt. Last night three of them were detained in hospital with leg injuries.

Shortly after the theatre was reopened as a cabaret restaurant in 1962 it was badly damaged by fire.

Boys at Bigshotte School, Crowthorne, Berkshire, part of Wellington College, planting potatoes yesterday to save buying at high prices. They hope to produce five tons.

Cambridge set for chess win over Oxford

By Harry Golombek
Chess Correspondent

The annual chess match between Oxford and Cambridge universities was played at Corpus Christi, Oxford, on Saturday. After a hard fight Cambridge led Oxford 3—2 with two games still to be settled by adjudication.

Oxford is prepared to concede a loss on board six and cannot hope to get more than a draw from board one. It looks therefore, as though Cambridge will emerge the victors by either 4½-2½ or 5—2.

Individual results, with Oxford names first, were:

J. Speelman (Worcester) v A. J. Nestel (Trinity) for adjudication; M. C. Truran (Oriel) J. G. Cooper (Caius) ½; A. L. Hocking (Balliol) [illegible] P. Littlewood (Christ's) ½; P. Sharp (Trinity) 0, J. P. Sommerville (Caius) 1; M. Pitt (Brasenose) 1, D. R. Johnstone (St Catharine's) 0; M. Roberts (Christ Church) ½, T. O. Chapman (Churchill) for adjudication; K. Howells (Wadham) 0, N. R. F. Sams (Corpus Christi) 1.

Cambridge had white on the odd-numbered boards.

Poor indexes in non-fiction books criticized

By a Special Correspondent

Mrs Cecilia Gordon, the Inner London Education Authority's school libraries organizer, criticized the quality of indexes in children's information books at a national conference of the Society of Indexers in London on Saturday.

In judging books for their value, one without an index disqualified itself, no matter what its merits in other respects, she said.

More than two fifths of non-fiction books for children had no index, and many others had indexes so inadequate and confused that they were useless, she added.

Publishers usually require an author either to make his own index or to pay a professional indexer. The society regards that as unfair to authors. It says publishers should pay for indexing.

There is a British Standard on the preparation of indexes, but its recommendations are rarely observed.

Bottled water for local babies

Bottled water is to be supplied to mothers in north-east Derbyshire so that babies can avoid drinking the local water, which contains nitrogen at about the warning level laid down by the World Health Organization.

Mr John Walton, chief environmental health officer for the area, said yesterday: "The water could be dangerous to children under the age of eight weeks."

Miners' leader condemns strike calls

Mr Joseph Gormley, president of the National Union of Mineworkers, yesterday accused members advocating strike action in resolutions for the union's annual conference of being "irresponsible".

Seven resolutions threatened strike action if the response to wage claims was unsatisfactory, he told a regional conference of the union at Scarborough. "I do not want to show brute force, I want to discuss and negotiate", he said.

It was important to keep the image of the industry good with the public; threats of strikes would drive people away. The union had a big part to play in the National Coal Board's 10-year plan, the success of which was important.

Mr Gormley called for new productivity deals in the industry, and said it was time that energy was taken out of the political field. "This is a long-term industry; we cannot have a change of policy with a change of government. Once a policy is agreed it has to be continued", he said.

He forecast that the lives of many pits would be extended. Some £1,400m was being invested in the industry; that was not a sign that it was being run down.

The £100 a week wage for faceworkers demanded last year would come "sooner rather than later", he said.

Widows seek tax concession

The National Association of Widows called yesterday for an additional income tax allowance of £275 for all widows whose total income does not exceed £3,000 [illegible]

The association has written to Mr Healey, Chancellor of the Exchequer, asking him to [illegible] the allowance to the amount now given to single pensioners so that the widows would benefit from any future increases to allow for inflation.

Woman wins crossword regional final

The second regional final of the CityStar/Times national crossword championship took place yesterday at the Viking Hotel, York. Only two women competing in a field of 102 scored maximum puzzle points of 124.

The champion, who has competed since the inception of the championship in 1970, was Mrs Joyce Cansfield, with 80 time bonus points. The runner-up, who also qualifies for the national final in September, was a newcomer to the contest, Mrs Noel Fenwick, with 47 time bonus points.

Prizes were also presented to Mr W. T. Miron and Mr J. P. Ford, who came third and fourth, with 123 puzzle points each and 57 and 54 time bonus points respectively.

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But of course everyone has their own idea.

Bill Slattery, vice president of schedules, believes TWA's 187 departures every week from Europe, North Africa and the Middle East to a total of 35 cities in America have more bearing on the subject.

Harriet Korn, director of in-flight, puts up an interesting case for the choice of 2 films and 8 tracks of international audio on every Trans World Service flight.

Dieter Buehler, head of dining, says that the choice of 3 meals in Economy and 5 in First Class is a much more satisfying reason.

Jules Rondepierre, interior designer, suggests that TWA's wide, body-contoured seats in 747's are more to the point.

Andrée Picq, ground hostess, offers the unique reason of TWA's exclusive New York terminal.

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But it may just be that Charline, Kathryn, Lewis, Tamara, Shirley, Rick, Larry, Laura, Phyllis, Lynn, Ellyn, Denise, Art, Neal and Jane are right.

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HOME NEWS

The BBC's training orchestra in peril

By Kenneth Gosling
Arts Reporter

They were advertising miracles on a poster outside the Colston Hall, Bristol, last week. Inside the hall, the young members of the Academy of the BBC, rehearsing Poulenc's *Sinfonietta*, were probably hoping the would happen within 18 months, after which the BBC may withdraw its financial support from the orchestra.

Miracles is a pop group; the young musicians are postgraduates who use the academy as a bridge to the big orchestras. But unless the BBC finds others willing to share in running it, the orchestra will be broken, probably for good.

It costs £110,000 a year to run the academy, founded as the new BBC Orchestra in 1966, with a change of name to the BBC Training Orchestra two years later.

Then it had 65 members, but four years ago the total was fixed at 35, and it became a chamber orchestra. The object was to give musicians recruited from colleges of music and private teachers the experience of playing with a big orchestra before applying for jobs elsewhere.

The BBC's orchestras take about a third of the applicants and have recruited more than 1,000 since the scheme was conceived by Sir William Glock. The academy is the only organization of its kind in the world, and the people who join it from one to three-year contracts can expect to make the broadcast a week and appear at 12 public concerts a year. Their ages range from 18 to 24 for wind players, and 18 to 27 for strings.

Mr Norman Del Mar has been associated with the orchestra from the beginning, became its principal conductor in 1974, and is a strong supporter of its continuation.

He said during a rehearsal break: "I believe in the thing, which is extremely valuable and should go on, otherwise I would not have taken it on. I deplore the retrenchment that has taken place and I think what is happening is a gross betrayal of the whole situation. All sorts of lively people are taking up the cudgels and the union is bound to raise its voice."

The Musicians' Union is, in fact, still in discussion with the BBC and Mr Howard Newby, its new managing director, radio. All the orchestras supported by the BBC are at present under a cloud because it is felt they are too costly for the corporation alone to maintain.

Mr John Morton, general secretary of the Musicians' Union, says the union will oppose any attempt by the BBC to relinquish its responsibilities because, he points out, it would change the nature of broadcasting which would grow more and more parasitic.

"We are very unhappy about it because it indicates a greatly mistaken and dangerous attitude by the BBC towards its employment responsibilities to musicians.

"The BBC says it feels it cannot bear this enormous burden and argues that only a small proportion of the academy's output goes to its orchestras. The other side of the coin, of course, is that it gets the rest of the musicians trained by somebody else."

Now, he adds, the BBC says the orchestra is too small and uneconomic to keep running without others supporting it sufficiently to restore it to its previous size.

Contracts for one year only will be offered from next autumn, but Mr Donald Froud, the orchestra's manager, says it will be impossible to invite guest conductors after next year because of the uncertain outlook.

In Bristol attempts are being made to find sponsors, but they are succeeding only in attracting offers to finance individual concerts.

"We can only hope that somehow the means will be found to prolong this splendid organization", Sir Adrian Boult wrote in 1971 in a letter to *The Times*. The threat is real, and even more dangerous today.

The threatened Academy of the BBC rehearsing at Bristol.

Economic threat to Harris tweed

Regional report

David Leigh
Stornoway

Harris tweed, the genuine handweave article, as authentic and British as maypoles or Rolls-Royce, seems to be on the way out. The islanders on the Outer Hebrides, who weave the cloth on their heavy treadle operated looms, have long been suffering from a serious slump.

They now face structuring plans, which they are expected to reject and which make it clear that their only salvation is to leave their homes and go to factory machinery.

"I suppose it is inevitable, but I do not want it to come," Donald McLeod says. He has spent 47 years within sight of the Atlantic and a stone's throw from his birthplace, watching the flying shuttle on the cast iron machine which has provided his livelihood.

A ballot is to be held among the weavers in Lewis and Harris on a proposal to pay off at least 50 more of the weaving force, which has shrunk from 250 to 550 in the past five years. The idea is that most of the rest will leave their cottages for small factories where they will work power looms.

The island mills, which contract out the weaving operations to the hand workers, to preserve their right to the famous Harris tweed orb trademark, say only power looms can make cloth wide enough for a larger, machinery equipped market. Attempts to invent a modern hand-driven loom here failed: it would be too heavy to work.

In spite of support for the Highland Organization from the mills, the Highland and Islands Development Board, the non-profit-making Harris Tweed Association and the local union representative, the weavers are hostile. They do not want to leave their homes, they do not want to become possible victims of what they see as the *commercial calculation of the mills* and they do not want to become redundant.

Some Lewis men argue that if hand weaving starts to wither, the delicate structure of a remote island cursed with 22 per cent unemployment, is bound to collapse.

"It keeps people in their homes, working in their villages, and makes a very good part time operation to combine with crofting", Sandy Matheson, former Provost of Stornoway, says. He adds that most young people avoid weaving because of its uncertain future. The supporters of the scheme argue that life in the small factories would be less lonely.

However picturesque hand weaving may seem, the weavers rarely took it up because they enjoyed it. Donald McLeod said: "It was all there was: I could not afford to stay at school in 1929, and we had this old loom in our house. It is heavy work, pedalling, pedalling all the time."

Yet he concedes: "There is a certain feeling of independence. You can take the afternoon off to help a neighbour and catch up with the work in the evening. And the Harris tweed industry has kept the island alive these 30 years."

William McLeod, who lives in the same village of Shawbost, is chairman of the weavers' section of the Transport and General Workers' Union and is even more forthright about the hand weaving life. "It is detestable", he says. He is a Glaswegian who married a local mill owner's daughter, and took up hand weaving four years ago.

"I sometimes wonder what I am doing here." Harris tweed, he thinks, has had its day because it is too heavy and durable for modern tastes. If the weavers reject the power loom plan, as he expects they will: "Then I hope in the future someone comes up with an alternative. It is a backward and archaic industry."

Harris tweed's history is marked by attempts to protect the handcraft element against technology. In 1934, in another slump, it was conceded that the trademark need cover only the weaving operation: spinning could be done at the mills.

In 1966 an Edinburgh court ruled that to comply with the trademark's description, the looms had to continue to be worked by hand at or near the weaver's home. The present supply of work is sometimes down to one length of tweed. Jobs and community survival are emotional themes. "I sometimes feel that people who want to retain the old system have a very good case," the Rev Donald Macauley, convener of the island regional council, says. "But what is the best thing to do?"

Pay beds in NHS wards to cost more

By a Staff Reporter

Big increases in charges for private beds in National Health Service hospitals are expected to be announced in the next week by Mrs Castle, Secretary of State for Social Services.

The Department of Health and Social Security said yesterday that the increases, part of an annual review of pay beds due to take effect on April 1, will take account of inflation and higher wages for nurses.

The British Medical Association and the British United Provident Association (Bupa), which looks after the interests of four fifths of private patients in insurance schemes, fear the increases could be as high as half. They say such a rise will deprive the Government of revenue.

Island jail staff seek cost of living payment

Prison officers in the Isle of Wight say they should get an allowance to offset the higher cost of living there. They complain that it is 15 to 20 per cent above that of staff at mainland prisons.

In an article in the *Prison Officers' Journal* Mr B. J. Martin, the spokesman for officers at Parkhurst, Albany and Camp Hill prisons, says that the ferry service is one of the most expensive in the world. Officers, he adds, have to book several months in advance, be prepared to travel at any time between 4 am and 11 pm, and pay £14.50 for a family with two children travelling by car.

Mr Martin blames the cost of transport for high food prices on the island. A survey showed that flour and butter each cost 17p on the island, compared with 14½p on the mainland; cheese cost 46p, compared with 34p on the mainland; and bacon 72p, compared with 66p.

Blow to tree myth

Mr Alan Mitchell, a Forestry Commission research station worker, has disclosed that the Major Oak in Sherwood Forest, where Robin Hood is reputed to have hidden in the twelfth century, is only 410 years old. Its life expectancy is another 200 years, he said.

Thousand attend right to work rally in London

Several thousand people attended a rally at the Albert Hall, in London, on Saturday to mark the end of the 340-mile "right to work" march from Manchester to London by 80 unemployed trade unionists.

Among the speakers at the rally, organized by the National Right to Work Campaign, was Mr Harry McShane, aged 82, a veteran of the hunger marches of the 1930s.

Earlier, 44 of the marchers had been remanded on bail until May 21 by Hendon magistrates charged with offences arising out of fights with the police on Friday.

Award scheme walkers rescued from mountain

Nine teenagers taking part in the Duke of Edinburgh's silver award scheme were brought down safely yesterday from the Mourne Mountains, Northern Ireland. All were suffering from exposure. Two were still recovering last night in hospital at Newry, co Down.

Mountain rescue teams had been out because low cloud and heavy rain had prevented the use of helicopters.

The group, whose members were aged between 14 and 16 from Lurgan College, had set out on a 12-mile walk in the mountains on Saturday morning. They were led by Roy Johnstone, an Army youth team corporal.

The weather later deteriorated and one girl began to suffer from exposure. They stopped, but several more of the party later began to suffer.

Mr Johnstone saw them into their sleeping bags and set off on an escape route to where a Land-Rover was waiting. It took him two and a half hours, for he had to ford two swollen rivers and swim a third.

A Royal Ulster Constabulary mountain rescue team then went out and found the party. Three four-man teams provided by soldiers brought the young people down on stretchers.

Bodies found: The bodies of Stephen Endicott and Christine Livingston, a young engaged couple who disappeared last Sunday on a Grampian mountain plateau, were found on Saturday in a single survival bag buried in six inches of snow (the Press Association reports).

Mr Endicott, aged 22, of Woodgrove Road, Henbury, Bristol, and Miss Livingston, also 22, of Drumpark Street, Stirling, were students at Dundee University.

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M.12	50 doz bottles.	1972 MOREY ST DENIS "Clos de la Bussiere", Roumier *Penetrating fruit and charm—ready 1980*	£28.50
M.13	50 doz bottles.	1972 MOREY "CLOS ST DENIS" Bouchard Pere et Fils *A vineyard with its own appellation—deep traditional character*	£30.00
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M.15	35 doz bottles.	1970 VOSNE ROMANEE, Ponnelle	£32.00
M.16	40 doz bottles.	1972 BEAUNE TEURONS, Bouchard Pere	£33.00
M.17	50 doz bottles.	1972 VOLNAY FREMIETS, Bouchard Pere	£33.00
M.18	50 doz bottles.	1972 POMMARD "LES EPENEAUX", Comte Armand	£34.00

WHITE BURGUNDY—French Bottled

Ref.			Per doz. bottles incl. V.A.T.
M.19	50 doz bottles.	1974 CHABLIS. Lamblin et Fils *A true genuine Chablis ideal for Spring and Summer drinking*	£22.80
M.20	70 doz bottles.	1974 MACON BLANC *French bottled for Laytons—clean and dry*	£16.20

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M.33	100 doz bottles.	1974 COTES du RHONE *French Bottled—Selected for the discerning regular wine drinker*	£15.00

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M.22	130 doz bottles.	MEDOC—Red £17.50
M.23	120 doz bottles.	ST EMILION—Red £17.00
M.24	130 doz bottles.	GRAVES—White £17.30

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Ref.			Per doz. bottles incl. V.A.T.
M.26	70 doz bottles.	N.V. CANARD DUCHENE Brut. *Dry and elegant*	£34.50
M.27	20 doz bottles	1966 POL ROGER *Magnificent*	£44.50
M.28	60 doz bottles.	N.V. KRUG Private Reserve *Bargain price—£20 per case below shippers price; beautiful condition*	£54.00

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Ref.			Per doz. bottles incl. V.A.T.
M.32	200 doz bottles.	1974 BERKICH BERNKASTELER RIESLING *Von Primwitz*	£15.75

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M.37	20 doz bottles.	1963 COCKBURNS	£41.00
M.38	20 doz bottles.	1966 CROFT	£36.00
M.39	30 doz bottles.	1966 REBELLO VALENTE	£32.00

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WEST EUROPE

Conservative threat to Christian Democratic leadership

From Peter Nichols
Rome, March 21

A shape began to emerge today from the turmoils marking the national congress of the governing Christian Democratic Party as the one serious challenge to the present leadership appeared to come from a traditionalist contender.

The atmosphere at this thirteenth congress is unlike any other event in the history of the party which has led Italy for three decades and unlike anything that has happened to any other party. Great names have been booed. Yesterday Signor Emilio Colombo, tha perennial Minister of the Treasury, met shouts of "Go away" and "Give us back the lira".

Today Signor Mariano Rumor, former secretary of the party, many ómes Prime Minister, was brought to a stop for several minutes by cheers whan he said that he supported Signor Benigno Zaccagnini, the present secretary. But the applause was for th esecretary not the speaker, to whom the position was made clear by shouts from the floor that once having said that he need say no more.

Signor Zaccagnini, who took over as secretary in July after the party's defaat in tha regional elections, is the favourite of the young people, of the rank and fila seeking a change of style in the party's affairs, "especially", one of his friends said today, "where the delegates were elected honestly".

Any speaker can have his applause by praising him. The onl yother device which usually hrings a good reaction is to speak badly of the Socialists. But the secretary is the popular hero. So what is the point of challenging him?

The man expected to announce tomorrow (or so he has tld his friends) that he will oppose the secretary is Signor Arnaldo Forlani, the Minister of Defence. He is a cautious, somewhat conservadve figure io the party's middle ranks who was due to be the hero of the last Christian Democradc Party national congress, but saw the secretaryship removed from him just as the delegates were gathering.

If he makes his attempt it will he in the interests of the less adventurous members of the party and those not strictly conservative behind him would have somewhat tradiónalist ideas about the running of the party's affairs. These include Senator Amintore Fanfani who had virtually brought Signor Forlani into nadonal polidcs, was then responsible for removing him at the last congress from the secretaryship, and is now encouraging him to tilt against the present secretary.

In one way, however, Signor Fanfani is expected to part from tradition: he will formulate his proposal for the direct election of the secretary hy the congress.

The clash, however, is not what it looks like: traditionalists against tha popular man of the left. Signor Zaccagnini is certainly more to the left than Signor Forlani; hut he is not popular because of that. He ownes his popularity to his obvious sincarity and the almost antiseptic touch he appears to give the party's affairs which are so sullied by scandal.

Both men would face the same dilemma of interpreting the meaning of the tumnlts. One speaker claimed that there must have been Communists in the hall.

One newspaper today called the phennmenon "the revolt of the peons". Anmther said that it represented the tension affecting the whole poliócal system.

Knowledge of this state of tension brought today from the Turin Ln *Stampn* an appeal to the Americans to desist from their threats to cut off economic help if the Communists should enter the Government. In a leading article headed "Silence is golden", the Americans are warned that the threat may he a "grave, possihly fatal, error."

President Tito begins talks in Portugal

From Our Correspondent
Lisbon, March 21

President Tito, reported to be very tired after a visit to Larin America, began talks today with President Costa Gomes of Portugal.

The marshal, aged 83, was using his stay in a coastal villa at Vale de Lobo io the Algarve mainly as a chance to rest after the exertions of his visit to Mexico, Panama and Venezuela, according to Portuguese officials. Towards the end of his American tour, he had heen obliged to cancel some appointments.

But nnder condiónns of exceptional security today the two leaders are believed to have discussed improving the already close cultural, diplomatic and commercial relations hetween Portugal and Yugoslavia.

It is also possihle that Prosideot Tito was asked to mediate with the new regime in Angola to restore Lishon's deteriorated relations with its former African territory.

On the commercial side, it is suggested that the tyo presidents discussed the possihility, announced recently, of a contract with Yugoslavia for the construcdon of tractors in Portugal. A British firm has also heen mentioned recently in connexion with such an enterprise.

Lisbon, March 21.—In remarks to he delivered at a hanquet tonight, President Tito called for cooperation between Lisbon and Belgrade "to put into practice the . . . decisions of the (Helsinki) conference on European security and cooperation".

"We also place great importance on . . . the forthcoming conference of non-aligned nations, which will give new impnlse to nadoonal peoples' fights for independence", President Tito said.

President Costa Gomes, in his speech, said Portugal sought a policy of democracy . . . through independence" and cuoperation hetween Portugal and Yugoslavia "to translate into fact . . . the (decisions of the) Helsinki conference."—AP.

Labour dispute at the Paris Opera forces President to cancel invitations issued to 1,500 guests

Stagehands spoil Giscard gala

From Richard Wigg
Paris, March 21

President Giscard d'Estaing wound up a had week, during which the Government lost ground in local elections and the French franc had to he floated, by being obliged to cancel the invitations he had sent to 1,500 people to attend last night's premiere of a new production of Mozart's *"Die Entführung aus dem sernil"* at the Paris Ooéra.

Some 120 stagehands and operatives at the state run Opéra had refused to call off a 24-hour strike designed to bring extra pressure on M Fourcade, the Minister of Finance, to agree to their wage demands.

The 1,500 guests missed a Gunther Rennert production conducted by Dr Karl Böhm with the Martinique-horn star, Christiane Eda-Pierre, as the heroine. They have received personal telegrams from tha President who had chosen them from politics, the arts, sciences, sport and puhlic life as disciguished figures during 1975.

All the families with whnm the President and his wife have dined in an effort ro bring the Elysée closer to the concerns ot ordinary pcople were also to have heen there.

An Elysée statement explained that the President had decided to cancel the evening because he "refused to bow to such pressure from the stagehands or to offer a spectacle unworthy of France's first theatre".

A spokesman for the stagehands said on television last night that it had heen "good union tactics" to seize on such a moment of maximum public importance.

He emphasized, however, that strike notice had gone out last Monday hefora the governing board of the Opéra had met to put the final touches to this vaar's hudget totalling 140m francs (£15.5m), a 46 per cent increase on last year. Seat receipts at the Opéra now only cover 13 per cent of expenses.

The dispute has complex roots and comes just as the running of the lavishly costly Opéra, which now absorbs 60 per cent of the budget for music, is under renewed criticism.

Music critics in both *Le Figaro* and *Le Monde* asked some searching questions last week about the results of M Rolf Liehermann's tanure as ganeral administrator. He was put in to rescue the Opéra in 1973 after it had been closed for months.

Bad labour relations have long plagued tha Opéra where the lack of modern equipment pnts a premium on the skills of the stagehands and mechanics and has permitted labour "feather-bedding" to grow up.

The substantial increase in costs this year, largely to permit Wagner's *Ring* to go into the repertoire, has ohviously been noted by the staff. They have repeatedly reacted sourly when Mr Liebermann has raised the fees of international star singers and fobbed off their wage demands.

Since December the unions have been seeking to negotiate starus improvements, aware that a modernization scheme would bring redundancies. No one seems to have informed the President of tha tense labour situation when the idea of inviting 1,500 guests occurred to him.

Le Figaro complained last week that Mr Liebermann had concentrated on creating an "opera museum" nf the great classics, lavishly produced and sung, without encouraging contemporary opera or young French singers. Milan's La Scala did better, the critic thought.

Le Monde's chief music critic, who praised Covent Garden for mnnaging things better, identified the hasic fault as the search for prestige stars and a permanent international festival atmosphare.

He called for a complete rethink of objectives and an end to the "concept of a royal opera for an elite".

Britain 'using cod dispute as EEC lever'

Reykjavik, March 21.—The Icelandic newspaper *Morgun-Bladid* said in a leading article today that Britain, for "extraneous reasons" had never intended to settle its fisheries disputewith Iceland. The newspaper usually reflects the views of Mr Hallgrimsson, the Icelandic Prime Minister.

Morgan-Bladid said Icelanders were surprised by what it called Britain's harsh attitude during negotiations and its use of military force.

Iceland had already reached agreement with West Germany, Belgium, Norway and the Faro Islands and was ready to come to terms with Britain, hut Britain assumed an attitude which completely hlocked all possibilities of agreement.

It added: "It is apparent that every time the negotiadons between the countries were approaching a realistic level, the British increased the harshness of the cod war clashes".

Ona was that Britain wanted to use the dispute to support its argument at the United Nanions Law of the Sea Conference that internadonal arbitration is needed to nrevent serious clashes arising from declaradons of unilateral rights by coastal states.

A second reason was that Britain was now using the dispute as a lever to ohtain a 100-mile exclusive British fisheries zone inside the EEC.

Many EEC and Nato countries, including West Germany, Belgium, Denmark and Norway, wanted the quickest possihle settlement of the dispute with Iceland and were trying to exert pressure on Britain.

But they were not making any headway, possihly because Britain was demanding a 100-mile exclusive zone to compensate for the loss of the Icelandic fishing grounds.—Reuter.

Spanish right warns Cabinet on reforms

From Our Correspondent
Madrid, March 21

The right made its boldest challenge yet to the Government today, urging it not to negotiate with the opposition and to reject all political parties other than the National Movement, the country's only legal political organization.

In a manifesto issued at the end of a three-day congress hy the Federation of Civil War Veterans, Señor José Antonio Giron, its leader, made it clear that supporters of the regime created by General Franco would hlock any moves to dismantle the system.

Señor Giron is a member of the Cortes appointed by General Franco, a member of the Council of the Realm, Spain's highest advisory body, and of the special commission to study constitutional reform.

He said that the Government should "develop and perfect the organic channels of political representation" and reject all moves towards establishing political parties. To allow political parties would only lead to the chaos of the 1930s.

He also rejected the Government's moves for Spain to join the European Community. He mentioned in particular the journeys made by Señor José Maria de Areilza, the Foreign Minister, who is regarded as a "reformist" and one of the main supporters of EEC entry.

"Only Spaniards have the right to decide their own constitutional system", he said. "Foreign pressures to make our institutions conform with theirs are inadmissible hecause they are an attempt at colonization." He also called for Gibraltar to be returned to Spain as its integral part.

Politically, socially and economically the country had rapidly declined since the death of General Franco on November 20, he said. "It is difficult for the system to function if its efficiency is put into doubt and its legitimacy is not defended".

Señor Luis Apostua, the political commentator for the Roman Catholic newspaper *Ya*, said today that while Señor Giron did not have enough standing to provoke a government crisis", he had "sufficient to obstruct the Government's moderate programme of reform".

Several opposition groups are to set up a commission to investigate alleged "crimes of Francoism" it was learnt in Madrid today. The commission is also to investigate the activities of people in positions of power after General Franco's death.

A note sent to newspapers said: "We are gathering evidence which in due time will be made known to the Spanish people and to world opinion."

Hundreds of members of the Federation of Civil War Veterans were present at a Requiem Mass yesterday for General Franco at the Valley of the Fallen where the General is buried next to Civil War veterans. It was attended by General Franco's widow, Dona Carmen Polo, a number of former ministers and senior officers of the armed forces. No member of the Government was present.

A Madrid political court yesterday sentenced five Communists to prison terms ranging from three to five years for belonging to an illegal organization. Another court fined a sculptor £2,000 for alleged connexions with the Communist Party. A painter arrested with him was released.

Naked Maja not duchess

Madrid, March 21.—A Spanish doctor said today that the eighteenth-century Duchess of Alba had a defective spinal column and could not have posed for Goya's painting "The Naked Maja".

Popular belief is that the Duchess posed for the painting, but her face was altered. Dr Ricardo Hernandez said that the remains of the Duchess had been exhumed and examined by three doctors at the request of her descendants in 1945.—Reuter.

Controversy in Italy over kidnap case dilemma

From Our Correspondent
Milan, March 21

Should the police try to prevent the payment of ransom in cases of kidnapping, or should the safety of the hostage he the paramount consideration?

This question has been passionately debated in the Italian press and on television since a Milan magistrate last week impounded the sum of 400m lire (£230,000) which the family of Signor Carlo Alberghieni, an industrialist, had got ready to pay as ransom to his kidnappers. Since then the kidnappers have cut off all communications with the family.

The industrialist's 26-year-old son, Signor Renato Alberghieni, appeared on television in tears to protest against the decision which he called inhuman. He was answered by the Minister of the Interior, who declared: "The state could not abdicate its duty to prevent crime, otherwise it would he exposed to all sorts of hlackmail".

The minister also pointed out tha the payment of ransom did not guarantee the survival of the victim. Indeed several kidnapped persons were found dead after ransom had heen paid.

Legally, the magistrate's decision appears correct as the criminal code states that it is the dnty of the police authority "to prevent a crime, whose design has become known, from being perfected". One consequence of this is that the lawyer of the Alberghieni family who negotiated with the kidnappers, is liable to be indicted for aiding and ahetting.

The members of the judiciary themselves are divided. Magistratura Democratica, an associadon of left-wing magistrates, has denounced the order of restraint as a form of repression.

The Milan attorney general, who is a superior of the magistrate who took the decision, publicly disapproved of it. He argued that it could result in the families of kidnapped persons not reporting to the police and negotiating in secret, thus making it even more difficult to discover the culprits.

It is heing suggested that decisions involving human life should not he left to the interpretation of a single magistrate, and that similar cases should be dealt with differently. A solution proposed by many is to have a special law passed dealing with this aspect.

Anti-communism plea in Madrid by Solzhenitsyn

Madrid, March 21.—Alexander Solzhenitsyn, the exiled Soviet author, said last night that he hoped a democratic Spain would soon join other Western countries in the "battle against communism".

Appearing on a television discussion programme, he said: "You in Spain will have a democracy very soon, I am sure. I only hope your qualities and great love of spiritual matters will help to reinforce the West in its battle against communism".

The Nobel Prize winner, speaking through an interpreter for 45 minutes, repeatedly attacked what he called the West's "tacit acceptance of the repression of the Russian people".

In a reference to the execution of five Spanish urban guerrillas last September he said: "The West was in uproar about those killings. But the West is not in uproar about the millions of people who have been executed in the Soviet Union".

Señor José María Inigo, the programme's presenter, said Mr Solzhenitsyn had spent the last 10 days touring Spanish provincial cities.—Reuter.

Two women die after balloon crashes in flames

Tours, March 21.—A hot-air balloon burst into flames yesterday on landing at Londun, near here, killing two women passengers, one of whom was a French television reporter. They were Mlle Diane de la Sahlière, the reporter, and Mme Safia Tarzi, of Afghanistan, a well-known balloonist. M Guy Viellard, the pilot, escaped with slight burns.

The hallooo left Marçay Château, near Chinon, with four other balloons. Two hours later it exploded at a height of 30ft as it was landing. M Viellard was hurled out of the basket but the two women were trapped under the blazing debris.

Ballooning has become e popular pastime in France. It is relatively cheap using hot air instead of gas.—Agence France Presse.

5,000 in protest over arrest

Volpiano, March 21.—Ahont 5,000 people demonstrated in Vulpiano, near Turin, yesterday demanding the release from prison of a local industrialist who is accused of killing a thief. They carried placards reading "We are against criminals". The industrialist is awaiting trial on charges of shooting dead a 23-year-old man whom he found with other thieves in his foundry shop.—AP.

School passport for Europe

Strashourg, March 21.—A special school passport will soon be issued to children studying abroad in the Council of Europe area.

The council announced that about 1,500,000 children would qualify for the passport, giving details in eight European languages of their previous education and heakh records.

The Paris Air Bridge

From April 1st, all Air France and British Airways UK–Paris services will fly to and from Charles de Gaulle, the world's most advanced airport.

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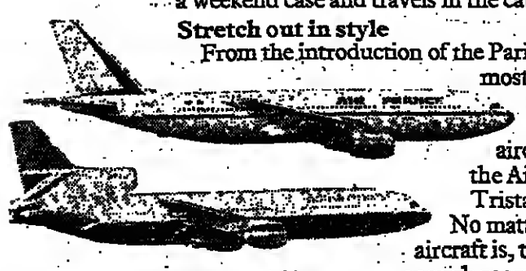
From the introduction of the Paris Air Bridge most flights will be in the comfort of wide-bodied aircraft: either the Airbus or the Tristar.



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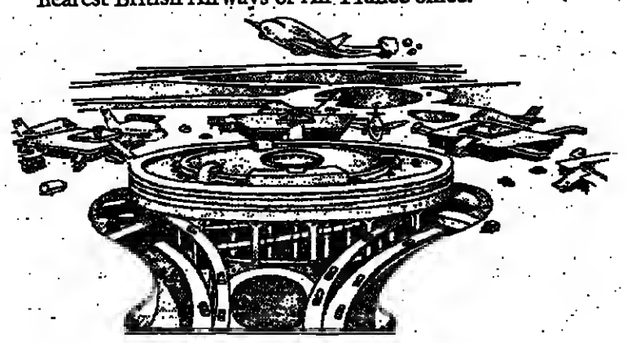

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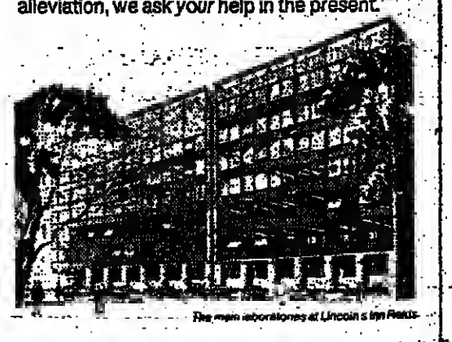

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VERSEAS

outh African troop withdrawal rom southern Angola aimed t forestalling UN condemnation

1 Our Own Correspondent
nnesburg, March 21

uth Africa is ready to with- the last of its troops from iern Angola by next Satur- Mr Vorster, the Prime ster, announced in Cape 1 today.

e South African troops ding the Calueque dam, of the multi-million pound ne river irrigation and ɔelectric scheme, would be d out if assurances which Government had received a third party proved to be uable, Mr Vorster added.

1 announcement comes as United Nations Security cil is preparing to debate 1 Africa's intervention in ngolan war, and is clearly oed to forestall the world from passing a motion con- ing the continued military nce in Angola's border n.

is also aimed at reducing on in southern Africa at e when a serious confron- 1 threatens to explode in 1 Africa's northern neigh- Rhodesia. Although the rnment here has been seek- ays of effecting an honour- withdrawal from Angola al- since the beginning of the this task has become all nore urgent since the col- of the talks between Mr mith's Government and Mr a Nkomo's wing of the an National Council.

Vorster's statement, 1 was originally to have been made on Friday night but was delayed for 36 hours, came after two days of almost con- tinuous consultations with the Prime Minister's senior policy advisers, including Mr. P. W. Botha, the Defence Minister, Dr Hilgard Muller, the Foreign Minister, Mr Brand Fourie, the Secretary for Foreign Affairs, and General Hendrick van den Bergh, the security chief.

The statement said: "We have, during the past few days, received, through a third party, assurances which in general terms appear to be acceptable to us. We are checking whether we are interpreting these assur- ances correctly, and if this is so South Africa will withdraw its troops from the Calueque area not later than March 27."

Calueque, about 15 miles in- side Angola, is the site of a regulating dam, now nearing completion, from which water is pumped to Ovamboland in northern Namibia (South-West Africa). No mention is made in the statement of the installa- tions at Ruacana where a power station and dam are being con- structed on either side of the Angolan-Namibian border. How- ever, it is presumed that South African troops will be with- drawn from all their positions inside Angola.

Significantly, Mr Vorster's statement comes only two days after President Agostinho Neto, the Angola leader, said in Guinea-Bissau that he would not give South Africa any guarantees for the Cunene scheme because the project be- longed to Angola. Thus it would seem that South Africa has not received the assurances from Angola which it had been hoping to obtain.

Similarly it seems unlikely that Angola has given South Africa any undertaking to con- trol the activities of the guer- rilla forces belonging to the South-West Africa People's Organization (Swapo), who have been carrying out an in- creasing number of raids into Namibia. South Africa will therefore have to maintain a sizable defence force on the southern side of the border to defend the territory against further guerrilla incursions.

South Africa's withdrawal decision will bring to an end a seven-month involvement in the Angolan civil war. It proved to be a big foreign policy blun- der, as it not only failed to achieve its objective of helping to defeat the left-wing Popular Movement (MPLA), but also alienated a number of black states, thereby damaging the Vorster Government's détente policy.

Abidjan: Dr Connie Mulder, the South African Interior and Information Minister, arrived in Ivory Coast yesterday on a "private visit", the national television network reported today. There has been specula- tion here that Ivory Coast is to establish full diplomatic relations with South Africa.—Agence France-Presse.

Thais die in march to demand US withdrawal

From Bruce Palling
Bangkok, March 21

The Thai Cabinet is meeting in emergency session tonight to discuss the violence which has marked the Government's deci- sion to give the United States four months to withdraw all its remaining military installations and personnel from Thailand.

At least three people died and more than 60 were wounded when a hand grenade was lobbed into a crowd of 10,000 students who organized a march to reinforce the ultimatum.

A Cabinet minister announced tonight that the Government had decided against declaring a state of emergency because it might disrupt the general elections in a fortnight's time.

Thai Foreign Ministry and American Embassy officials had tried to reach an agreement on the retention of the 3,900 remaining American military personnel. The sticking point was the United States refusal to place all its personnel and installations under Thai juris- diction and law.

At a press conference yester- day Mr Kukrit Pramoj, the Prime Minister, said: "The United States wanted diplomatic privileges for their technical personnel. We do not agree to that."

He announced that the United States would have to stop all monitoring activities on Thai soil immediately, particularly those at the top secret Ramasun centre, only 40 miles south of the Laos border near Vientiane.

Praise for 'The Times' views on the mission of today's visitor

'Pravda' explains Mr Gromyko's London trip

From Edmund Stevens
Moscow, March 21

Pending the selection of Mr Wilson's successor the Kremlin is remaining discreetly non- committal about British events. Such caution is especially in order with Mr Gromyko, the Foreign Minister, arriving in London tomorrow on an official visit.

When the news broke of Mr Wilson's decision to retire, I understand that the first im- pulse in Moscow was to post- pone Mr Gromyko's visit, at least until the parliamentary dust had cleared. But on se- cond thoughts it was decided that he should go ahead as planned, since the continuity of British policy towards the Soviet Union was not at issue.

If, as was thought likely, Mr Callaghan inherited the mantle of leadership, this continuity was doubly assured, for as Foreign Secretary he was co- author of the present policy together with Mr Wilson whom he accompanied to Moscow in February, 1975. Should some other candidate be chosen, Mr Callaghan would in all likeli- hood remain in his present post.

From the Soviet standpoint the main thing is that the transfer of leadership should proceed smoothly, without a split or a hitch that might lead to an opening for that terrible woman, Mrs Thatcher.

Assessing the prospects and purpose of the Gromyko visit *Pravda's* London correspondent observes that despite the un- flagging efforts of "influential circles" to prevent an im- provement in Anglo-Soviet rela- tions, there is growing support in Britain for such an improve- ment from "the advocates of a realistic course in foreign policy".

The Gromyko visit, he says, should be viewed "as a step corresponding to the general direction of Soviet foreign policy and to the positive assessment of Anglo-Soviet relations voiced from the podium of the twenty-fifth party congress".

Pravda's correspondent approvingly cites *The Times* to the effect that the visit is part of the new phase in these rela- tions inaugurated a year ago at the Anglo-Soviet summit meet- ing in Moscow.

He also holds with a comment by *The Guardian* that the Soviet Foreign Minister will acquaint the British Govern- ment with details of the new proposals heard at the recent party congress, such as the establishment of official rela- tions between the EEC and Comecon, cooperation in energy, transport and protec- tion of the environment, as well as British and Soviet par- ticipation in a just Middle East settlement.

Leading article, page 15

North Carolina primary may put an end to Wallace hopes in presidential race

From Patrick Brogan
Washington, March 21

This week's presidential pri- mary is in North Carolina, and it might prove the *coup de grâce* for Mr George Wallace. He has been defeated in three succes- sive primaries, in Massachusetts, Florida and in Illinois last week, each time by a wider margin.

The victor in the last two primaries was Mr Jimmy Carter and the two men are now virtu- ally alone in the Democratic race in North Carolina. If Mr Wallace cannot beat him this time, he cannot win anywhere outside his own state and per- haps one or two others.

He won a provisional victory in Democratic caucuses in Mississippi, but the string of defeats since then and the grow- ing public realization that his health greatly restricts his effec- tiveness, may mean that that is all he will win outside Alabama.

President Ford's supporters hope that North Carolina will be equally decisive for Mr Ronald Reagan, who has also suffered a series of defeats. Unlike Mr Wallace, however, the former Governor of California can hope seriously to do better in later primaries—although by now he can no longer reasonably hope to win the Republican nomina- tion unless some unexpected crisis sweeps the President away.

All the betting is on Mr Ford to win the Republican primary in North Carolina. The betting is also that Mr Carter will win the Democratic primary and, if he does, the question will be whether he does as well in the next series of primaries.

There will be a fortnight's re- spite before they begin in New York and Wisconsin on April 6, and Mr Carter will then have to fight Senator Henry Jackson all the way. The Senator expects to win in New York, and to carry other northern, industrial states in turn, building up a for- midable list of delegates to the convention.

Jailed writer calls off hunger strike

From Our Correspondent
Belgrade, March 21

Mihajlo Mihajlov, the Yugo- slav writer who is serving a seven-year sentence for spread- ing propaganda hostile to the state, has ended a three-month hunger strike and won conces- sions from the prison autho- rities.

He has been granted a tran- sistor radio, access to foreign books and magazines sent to him by friends, as well as greater freedom of movement within the prison. He will be allowed to meet other political prisoners.

His demand that political prisoners be recognized as a special category was not met.

mith concessions fail narrow the gap

Nicholas Ashford
ury, March 21

Ian Smith has placed the al ball firmly in Britain's with his public appeal ondon to play a direct role e Rhodesia constitutional now that his talks with Mr a Nkomo's faction of the an National Council (ANC) collapsed.

wever, political observers feel that despite some ssions offered by the esian Prime Minister in elevised press conference -day—notably a suggestion he might be prepared to back on his unilateral ration of independence if ere in Rhodesia's best ests to do so—the gap een the two sides is so that there is little Britain any other outside power pt South Africa can do to lerate the situation.

r his press conference Mr th said he did not believe black majority rule, "not in 0 years". He added how- , that he believed in onsible government for desia and that he had ys been prepared eventu- to bring black people into Government.

though Mr Smith's "not in years" remark may have an exaggerated response question, it is abundantly that he is still far from ing Mr Nkomo's demands h were in effect for rity rule within 12 months.

st how great is the distance een the two sides is shown e proposals each put for- for a new House of mbly. According to in- ed sources the Rhodesians offering the ANC a 108- assembly in which the cans would have only 10 elected MPs than they now.

The Government's proposed assembly would have three blocks, one of 36 white MPs, one of 36 black MPs (half of whom would be directly elected and the other half chosen by tribal electoral colleges), and one of 36 common roll MPs elected on a high franchise, so that most of all of them would be white. This plan would pro- duce a parliament of 72 whites and 36 blacks.

By contrast the ANC was pro- posing a parliament of 144 seats —36 white MPs, 36 black MPs and 72 national roll MPs, most of whom would be black.

All the black MPs would be elected on a one-man, one-vote basis. The 72 national-seat voters would have included black soldiers, policemen, teachers, headmen, clergymen and people who had been more continuously in employment for five years or more.

Much of Mr Smith's press conference appeared to be directed at Britain, as if he were trying to make Rhodesia an electoral issue with the British public. He said that in 1972 it had been agreed with Sir Alec Douglas-Home, the then Foreign Secretary, that Britain should keep right out of the issue. However, the present Labour Government had "bedevilled the local scene" by continually giving advice to the ANC, even to the extent of telling the nationalists what they should or should not accept.

Mr Nkomo today rejected as "a deliberate political lie" Mr Smith's suggestion that Britain had advised the ANC to de- mand immediate majority rule. Addressing a press conference after a meeting of the council's central committee in Gwelo, he said the ANC's policy of "one- man, one-vote majority rule now" was well known

resident Amin welcomes d of Salisbury talks

a Our Correspondent
obi, March 21

esident Amin of Uganda, rman of the Organization of can Unity (OAU), wel- ed the breakdown of the bury constitutional talks. said the OAU had re- edly given warning of the liability and intransigence Ir Ian Smith, the Rhodesian the Minister.

e OAU had encouraged the to demonstrate that Africa ld have preferred a peaceful tion in Rhodesia, but now organization would not sup- further talks with the white ority.

e end of the road had come the freedom fighters ld now carry the armed ggle into the very heart of bawe (Rhodesia). The e minority had themselves blame for the "uncertain re" they face under future k majority rule.

resident Amin warned South ca and anyone else consider- ing assisting Mr Smith to accept the lesson of Angola.

The external wing of the Rhodesian African National Council, in a statement issued here, says it is jubilant at the collapse of the talks. It calls on Mr Joshue Nkomo, leader of the internal ANC, to return to the fold so that the council could demonstrate its unity.

The statement, signed by Mr James Chikerema, one of the leaders of the external ANC, says the Salisbury talks, like earlier constitutional discus- sions with Britain, were e manoeuvre aimed at keeping power in white hands. It accuses Mr Nkomo of making "treacherous concessions".

Mr Arap Moi, the Kenyan Vice-President, speaking in Western Kenya yesterday, de- scribed Mr Smith as irrational, and said he had lost much with reality. "Smith's short-sighted- ness spells doom for the white minorities in southern Africa", he added.

ecturer jailed Zambia ken to hospital

m Our Correspondent
aka, March 21

r Robert Molteno, the ined South African-born urer at the University of bia, has been moved from Kobelo maximum security on to hospital. Prison autho- es in Kabwe, confirmed to- that he was suffering from ogn-term infection.

fr Molteno and four other urers at the University of obia, were arrested more n a month ago after anti- ernment student demonstra- ns at the university campus. Dr Lionel Cliffe, the British turer, was served with a new sidential detention order on ursday.

Missionary from Dorset freed in Philippines

Manila, March 21.—Miss Eunice Diment, aged 37, a missionary from Dorset, has been freed after being held for three weeks on a southern Philippines island by Muslim rebels who kidnapped her at gunpoint.

Mr Dan Weaver, her employer as director of the Summer Institute of Linguistics, said: "She is fine and she looks good and has not lost any weight. As far as we know she has not been harmed in any way."

The kidnappers had de- manded 200,000 pesos (about £14,000) for her release, but Mr Weaver said he was sure no ransom had been paid.—Reuter.

Why doesn't he wrap up his hot water tank with a really thick jacket?
And wrap up his loft with 3" insulation? (1" isn't enough.)
And wrap draught excluders around his doors and windows?
These alone could cut his fuel bill by a third.
I suppose then he'll go on about how much he's saved.

Department of Energy.

OVERSEAS

Three faces of Patricia Hearst: left, with her fiancé, Mr Steven Weed, before her kidnapping; centre, a hidden camera shot during a San Francisco bank raid; right, with Emily Harris, an alleged confederate, after their arrest and first court appearance.

Kidnapped heiress on wrong side of the law

San Francisco, March 21.—The events surrounding the Patricia Hearst case began early in 1974. This is what happened:

1974

Feb 4: Two women and two men kidnapped Miss Hearst, half-naked and screaming from her flat in Berkeley, California, and hit Mr Steven Weed, aged 28, her fiancé, with a wine bottle

Feb 7: A San Francisco radio station received a message saying that Miss Hearst's kidnappers were the Symbionese Liberation Army, a group of white university radicals and former black prisoners who had already committed one murder.

Feb 12: The Symbionese Liberation Army, in a tape of Miss Hearst's voice, told her father, Mr Randolph Hearst, the newspaper owner, to distribute millions of dollars worth of food to the poor.

Feb 18: Mr Hearst agreed to meet the ransom demand and distributed $2m (£1m) worth of food.

Feb 22: The food was handed out to long lines of waiting poor in the ghetto districts of San Francisco, resulting in widespread disorders.

April 2: A letter from the Symbionese Liberation Army said Miss Hearst'a release would be announced within 72 hours.

April 3: Miss Hearst announced that she was staying with her captors and had taken the revolutionary name of "Tania".

April 15: The Symbionese Liberation Army robbed the Hibernia Bank in San Francisco and bank surveillance cameras recorded a picture of Miss Hearst standing guard with a carbine.

May 16: Miss Hearst and her companions, William and Emily Harris, were involved in a shooting at a sporting goods store in Los Angeles and fled the police.

May 17: Miss Hearst and the Harrises escape from a shoot-out with the police at e house in a Los Angeles ghetto in which all other members of the Symbionese Liberation Army group died.

May 22: Miss Hearst end the Harrises were charged by the Los Angeles district attorney with assault, robbery and kidnapping.

1975

March 13: A Federal grand jury in Pennsylvania received evidence that Miss Hearst end the Harrises hid in a farmhouse in Pennsylvania in the summer of 1974.

Sept 18: The Federal Bureau of Investigation arrested the Harrises near their San Francisco hide-out; Miss Hearst was picked up in another house three miles away

1976

Feb 4: After two weeks of jury selection, Miss Hearst went on trial for the Hibernia Bank raid.

March 20: The jury found Miss Hearst guilty of bank robbery and of carrying a gun in the commission of a felony. The judge said he would pass sentence on April 19.—Reuter.

Psychiatrist adamant that Miss Hearst is innocent

Dr William Sargant, the British psychiatrist who interviewed Miss Hearst before her trial, said yesterday he was still "absolutely convinced" of her innocence.

He had five lengthy interviews with Miss Hearst, but was not called to give evidence at the trial. He said he was certain that she was in a state of "forcible conversion" during her time with the Sybionese Liberation Army. He believed the defence made the wrong choice in its decision over which psychiatric evidence to present at the trial.

Dr Sargant, honorary consulting psychiatrist at St Thomas's Hospital, and author of *Battle of the Mind*, said at his home in Handley, Dorset: "Everyone knows that people can be converted and converted back. People have got to realize that the normal mind is not entirely your own.

"It is impossible that a person like that, without a sign of politics, if she had not been kidnapped and subjected to *this horrific experience*, would have ended up with years in jail".

Miss Hearst's "conversion" happened while she was kept blindfolded in a cupboard, he said. She was told she was in danger from the FBI. Not once during his long interviews with her had he caught her lying.

Her condition when he interviewed her, he said, was that of "battle fatigue", a state he had not seen since the Second World War. "I am absolutely convinced of her innocence", he said. "She is a normal girl and she has a nice family".

Parents in court to hear verdict on daughter

Continued from page 1

eventual arrest on September 18.

When Miss Hearst gave evidence, she described how she was carried off from the flat in Berkeley, California, where she was living with Mr Weed, and how tremendous pressure was put on her by her kidnappers. She said she had been raped by two of them, and continued to live in fear of being killed by them throughout the long months in which she was being hunted by the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

During this time she was driven across the United States twice and there were several occasions when she might have left the group, a point made by the prosecution. She insisted, however, that she had been afraid of the group up to the end—even after most of them had been killed in a gun battle with the police in Los Angeles.

She denied, for instance, that the recorded messages, in which she abused her parents and eventually announced that she was joining the Symbionese Liberation Army, were her own work. She had been told what to say, she said.

The prosecution's case was a simple one: that Miss Hearst had decided to join the Symbionese Liberation Army after an initial period and that her later explanation of what had happened was a pack of lies. They countered Miss Hearst's defence that she had taken part unwillingly in the bank robbery and had not been in possession of bullets by producing witnesses who said they had seen her.

One of them said that he had seen Miss Hearst scrambling to pick up ammunition in front of the bank. The woman he had seen was the same one, he said, as the one shown in the photographs taken by a camera inside the bank.

For Miss Hearst's parents, the trial and the verdict were clearly a painful process. They sat in the front row of the spectators throughout the trial and were there when the jury returned yesterday afternoon.

Prisoners of conscience

Kenya: Seroney

Like most of his fellow Kenyans, Mr Jean Marie Seroney had enjoyed the relative freedom and stability of his country until his detention last year.

Though President Jomo Kenyatta maintained a tight grip on the nation through his Kenya African National Union (Kanu) the sole political party, there was a certain amount of vocal opposition from within Kanu's own ranks. One of the most popular of these critics, perhaps because of his colourful turn of phrase, was Mr Josiah Kariuki, a fellow MP, who accused the Government of creating a nation of 10 millionaires and 10 million beggars.

It was the death of Mr Kariuki that brought Mr Seroney, a lawyer by training and Deputy Speaker of the Parliament, into headlong conflict with the leadership of Kanu. Angry parliamentarians demanded an inquiry into the killing and Mr Seroney was one of the MPs appointed to take part.

Extremely damaging evidence heard by the inquiry implicated the Police General Service Unit in the murder which, along with British press reports of financial abuses by President Kenyatta and his family, forced the president into launching a counter-attack on his critics. He toured the country with the warning that "a hawk is always in the sky ready to swoop on the chickens".

In a parallel move, a meeting of Kanu district chairmen in Nairobi threatened to expel from Parliament any Kanu member who "deviated from party policy" and Mr Seroney's constituents in Nandi voted to do so. Government ministers in parliamentary debates criticized those who found fault with the Kenyatta government.

It was in the course of such a debate on October 9 last year that the incident occurred which ultimately led to the detention of Mr Seroney. During a speech by Mr Martin Shikuku, a fellow critic of the Government, Mr Shikuku said that there were some people who were "trying to kill parliamentary democracy in the manner the Kanu party had been killed."

Loyal MPs protested and Mr Seroney, who was acting as chairman for the debate, was asked to rule Mr Shikuku's remarks "out of order". This he refused to do, saying that Mr Shikuku was only stating the obvious. There followed a walk-out by members supporting the Kanu leadership, an event which recurred the next day when loyal parliamentarians found out that Mr Seroney was once more chairman for the day's debate.

On the evening of October 15, plainclothes policemen entered the Nairobi Parliament building and arrested Mr Seroney and Mr Shikuku at gunpoint. The next day it was announced that they had been detained under the Preservation of Public Security Regulations.

Both men remain in detention where they may be held indefinitely without trial, under Kenyan law.

Mr Seroney: Arrested in Parliament building.

Israeli police investigate fatal hotel blaze

From Our Correspondent
Tel Aviv, March 21

Police and the fire brigade in Netanya, north of Tel Aviv, are investigating the cause of a fire that swept through a one storey Mediterranean seaside hotel yesterday, killing four guests and injuring 38. Seven Israelis have been detained on suspicion of arson and youth who had been ejected from the nightclub when they tried to force their way in without paying on Friday night have been questioned. Arab terrorist claims of responsibility for the blaze have been discounted.

Reports that the owners had been beset by extortionists demanding "protection money" are still under investigation. The extensive damage to the lower storeys has impeded the investigation.

Most of the 200 guests were rescued by firemen who set up hydraulic ladders but some lowered themselves down ropes improvised by knotting together bedsheets. Others jumped. Many of the casualties suffered broken limbs.

Supreme Court backs ban on Jewish prayers

From Our Correspondent
Tel Aviv, March 21

The Supreme Court in Jerusalem today confirmed that the police had authority to prevent Jews praying on the Temple Mount Jerusalem, where Al Aqsad mosque now stands over the ruins of Herod's temple.

The decision upholds a 1970 ruling, after a magistrate's judgment two months ago, attacking the police policy, started Arab riots in the occupied West Bank.

Israelis to join UN debate despite PLO presence

From Our Own Correspondent
New York, March 21

Israel will take part in a debate on the Middle East beginning in the United Nations Security Council tomorrow. This is a new departure, because the Palestine Liberation Organization is also expected to take part, and Israel has previously stayed away when the PLO was there.

The debate, which has been requested by the Islamic group at the United Nations, will centre on the disturbances in East Jerusalem and the West Bank.

Our Tel Aviv Correspondent writes: Mrs Thatcher, the Conservative leader, said on arrival at Ben-Gurion airport tonight: "When I was in Damascus I said very firmly indeed I do not believe international negotiations should be conducted by terrorist means."

She was replying to a reporter who asked whether she regarded the PLO as "the legitimate spokesman of the Palestinian people".

British golfer shot dead in Zambia incident

From Our Correspondent
Lusaka, March 21

A visiting British professional golfer, Mr David Moore, was shot dead in Mufulira last night, the police confirmed in Lusaka today.

Mr Moore, of Brett, Essex, arrived in Zambia on March 8 in a team of British golfers taking part in the Cock of the North tournament, Mufulira open, and Zambia open.

The police said that he had been shot by a Mufulira mine captain, Mr Ray Ginnis, who later shot himself dead.

After the shooting incident at the house of his host in Mufulira, Mr Moore who was 22, was taken to hospital but died after being admitted.

British ship hit by Japanese rocket

Tokyo, March 21.—A British iron ore carrier, the 16,646-ton Cape Ortegal, has been hit by a rocket, believed to have been fired by an aircraft of the Japanese defence force during an exercise.—AP.

Mr Teng is offered a chance to 'repent'

From David Bonavia
Peking, March 21

The *People's Daily* today offered Mr Teng Hsiao-ping, the Deputy Prime Minister, a chance to "repent" before his overthrow. In a front-page article it said that "the historic experience" of the Chinese Communist Party was Chairman Mao's dictum, "learn from past mistakes to avoid future ones and treat the illness to cure the patient".

The party organ went on: "At this time, will the capitalist roader who is trying to reverse verdicts (a euphemism for Mr Teng) change his bourgeois stand under the renewed criticism of the people of the whole country and with their help?

"Or will he continue with his Confucian trick of 'restraining oneself and restoring the rites' (the tactic attributed to the late Lin Piao in his alleged attempt at a coup in 1971)?"

Observers said that this was one of the most conciliatory statements made so far in the campaign against Mr Teng, who is accused of having tried to restore *revisionist policies* since he was rehabilitated in 1973 after seven years of disgrace since the Cultural Revolution.

Unofficiel reports indicate that the campaign to unseat Mr Teng has gone into a trough. Students at Peking University are showing themselves thoroughly bored by the whole affair, and reports from Shanghai say that wall posters on the streets there attacking Mr Teng have been taken down.

Schools plan to end race ban

Durban, March 21.—The Roman Catholic Church in South Africa has decided to open its 192 all-white schools to blacks, Mgr Denis Hurley, Archbishop of Durban, announced here last night.

But he added that there were still important legal questions to be discussed with the South African Government.

The decision, taken during a conference of Catholic bishops last week, will affect 116 primary and 76 secondary schools.

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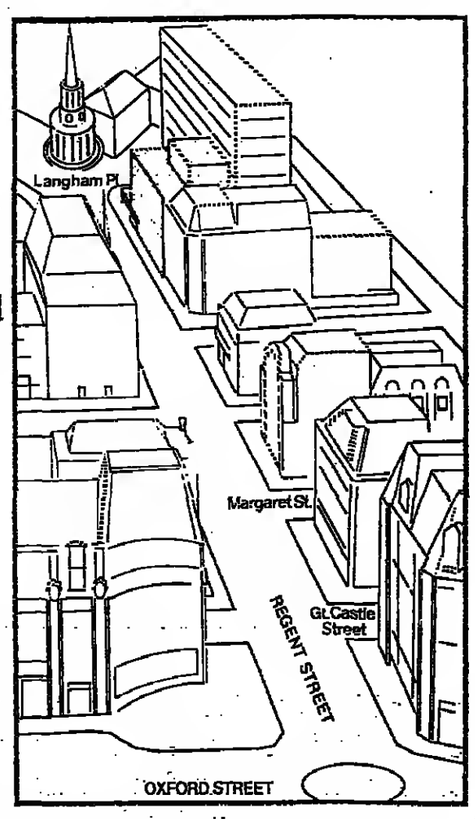
It is all on show to representatives of industry and commerce at the U.S. Trade Center, 4/5 Langham Place, London W.1., on March 24th, 25th and 26th from 11.00a.m. until 4.30p.m.



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Irvine New Town

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SOUTHAMPTON based Auto Electric Company. T/O £80,000.—See Businesses for Sale.

Business Notices

CARDIFF — Established office of National Company in City centre. Prestige offices, has spare space and staff capacity to act as agents, undertake commissions etc. for suitable organisations requiring representation in S. Wales.
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SAUDI ARABIAN COMPANY wishes to represent U.K. firms in building and civil construction, Prefab housing, concrete materials, etc. Box No 0395P, The Times.

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Country property

Oxton (Birkenhead)
Well sought after area (close all amenities). For private sale. Recently modernised and re-roofed. Dining room, sitting room and utility/2nd living room, 2 double, 3 single bedrooms, plus dressing room. Full C.H.; well cared for gardens plus orchard set in ½ acre (all fenced, etc.); garage plus car port. £26,000. Freehold. To view telephone 051-653 5179.

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Deposits required: £3,000 to £5,000, from suitable applicants who will share in obtaining mortgage facility.
Contact: Moreton Housing Association,
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PROPERTY WANTED

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PROPERTY TO LET

WOKING, SURREY. — 30 min. Waterloo. Fully furnished, usually houses available now. Rents from £30-£65 p.w. Pilgrims Ltd. Woking (04863) 5307.

MINORIES, E.C.3.—3,000 sq. ft. Excellent fully fitted offices, 6 offices, reception, general area, boardroom. All ready to move in. Lift. Rent £6.75 per sq. ft. exclusive. Lease to expiring leasehold interest. Sole lettings. Sole agents Baker Lennox & Co. 499 8165.

MAYFAIR. A selection of office suites in good buildings. Floor areas varying from 350 to 7,233 sq. ft. Competitive rents. Full details from:
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BROMPTON ROAD, S.W.3 (close). Newly built, prestige offices, area, approximately 5,350 sq. ft., lift, c.h. and parking.
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CHISWICK (nr. New Brent). Amazing value. Impressive 1,200 sq. ft. s/c suite of 7 offices. Only £3,000 p.a. Fine room, carpeted throughout, new decs. 100% lighting. Possession 28 days. Keys, Street Group, 01-995 8281.

NW5. Prestige air-conditioned office suite in new building. 650 sq. ft. close underground. £4,000 p.a. Salter Rex, 01-485 1089.

Businesses for Sale

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KENSINGTON. Beautiful maisonette in modern conversion 3 beds, 1 recept., kitchen, bathroom, 25 year lease. £[illegible] Telephone 01-373 [illegible]

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Commercial and Business market

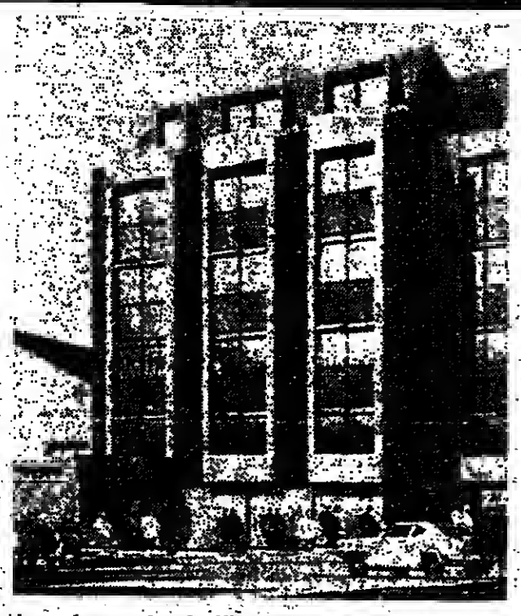
ombining home ith ard work

hotel market is a highly litized if relatively small of the property scene. It es from the large urban l run by large chains or bines, which is very much business, to the smaller ry house kind, which s in the businessman. sees opportunity coupled pleasant living conditions, if it does mean a lot of work.

interesting examples are le at the moment. One xurious hotel and coun- club known as The Springs, t, opened near Walling- Oxfordshire, last year. It bought two years ago by an Gillan, the singer, who t about £300,000 on it. ally a country mansion t about the turn of the cen- the emphasis is more on country club than the hotel. accommodation includes a dc room bar, another bar, arium restaurant, a dining m and seven bedroom es, each with a bathroom. ounds in five acres, which ude a swimming pool it in the shape of a guitar. ght Frank and Rutley are ring it, complete with con- ts, on the instructions of the idator.

he other is the Roman mp Hotel at Callander, in tland. The origins of the lding are uncertain, but a ning lodge built in the eenth century forms part the present building. It is y licensed, with a three star ng, and can accommodate ests in 15 bedrooms. There two dining rooms, a lounge, ary and bar. Staff accommo- ion includes two houses in 12 acres of grounds. A e of about £60,000 is ex- ted and a further nine acres land is available. The sale hrough Strutt and Parker, Edinburgh, and Rubert ry & Co. of Cirencester.

lso in Scotland, Markham elopments, part of the d. Jones Group, of Maiden- d, have completed two pping developments. The rt is at 63 Princes Street, nburgh, where a building acquired by the developers 1973 for more than £1m.



A newly completed office building in central Wakefield, West Yorkshire.

That was demolished and a oew shop on basement, ground and three upper floors was built. The unit has been let to a ladies' fashion ware chain at £70,000 a year. Hillier Parker May and Rowden, who have been advising the de- veinpers, were associated with Debenham Tewson and Chinnocks in the letting. Conrad Ritblat acted for the tenant.

The other development, let through the same agents, is in Kirkcaldy, adjoining the new Mercat shopping centre. there the property was acquired by Markham for about £250,000 and the new building has about 3,500 sq ft on each of two floors. It is to be occupied by the Royal Bank of Scotland, who were represented by Graham and Sibbald. Both schemes were financed by the Guardian Royal Exchange Insurance Group, for whom Debenham Tewson aod Chinnocks acted.

Just completed in Wakefield, West Yorkshire, is a new office building in Qoeen Street, with a second frontage to Market Street. A development by Purlin Property Developments, it was designed by Cotton Ballard and Blow and is close to both the Bulring shopping centre and Wakefield station. It has about 11,000 sq ft and is available at £32,000 a year through Hillier Parker May and Rowden, of Loodon, and Weatherall Hollis and Gale, of Wakefield.

On the Continent, Grandvista Properties, an associate company of Equity and Law Life Assurance Society, has announced its third big deal in as many months, continuing its policy of acquiring prime, fully let investments. The company has bought an industrial investment at Dietzenbach, near Frankfurt, for £2m. The first phase of the estate was completed last year and all of its 5,117 sq metres has been let to Dupont de Namours. The second phase of 9,500 sq metres, now nearing completion, is also fully let, one third being taken by the Belgian carpet firm, Beaulieu, Jones Laog Wootton GmbH, of Frankfurt, who introduced the scheme, acted for Grandvista. Michael Vogt Europartners also acted as consultants to Grandvista on some aspects of the deal.

In Belgium, the Brussels office of Richard Ellis, has completed several lettings for Brixton Estates in their new development at 250 Avenue Louise, Brussels. The building, on the corner of Roe Gachard, has 10,698 sq metres of offices, with showrooms on the groood floor. The third floor, of 963 sq metres has been let to the Centre de Recherche et d'Information des Consommateurs, a research organisatino attached to the Ministry of Economy. The seventh floor, of similar size, has gone to Conseil Européen des Federations de l'Industrie Chimique, for occopation with two subsidiary companies. In addition, a showroom on the ground floor has been let to S. A. Verlan, franchise holders for Lanvin and Givenchy clothing in Belgium.

In Loodon, small office suites and shops in the Covent Garden area are being created from old market buildings by Chapel Land, who own the greater part of the island site bounded by Wellington Street, Catherine Street, Exeter Street and Rossell Street, and divided by Tavistock Street.

Twelve units are being marketed through Weatherall Green and Smith and E. A. Shaw and Partners. The shops range in size from one as small as 202 sq ft up to 2,300 sq ft, with basement storage. The rents vary between £2,500 and £14,500 a year, although most are in the middle range. Similarly the offices range in size from 766 sq ft up to 1,243 sq ft and rents are about £7 a sq ft. All the offices have separate entrances and 24-hour access.

In one of the largest vacant possession transactions for some time Bass Charrington have bought a riverside industrial, warehouse and office complex at Union Mills, North Woolwich Road, east London. It consists of about 355,000 sq ft of space on a site of nine acres and is to be used as a centralized distribution depot, and for warehousing, vehicle maintenance and other company departments. The vendors were BOCM Silcock, a subsidiary company of Unilever. The sale was through Chamberlain and Willows, with John Postlethwaite and Co acting for Bass Charrington.

Gerald Ely

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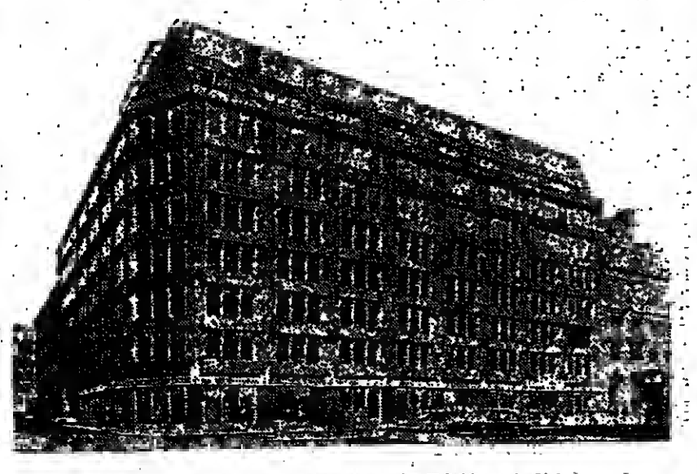

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Its premises, situated on a busy main road 1 mile from the city centre, contain the necessary equipment to carry out a testing and reconditioning of all starters, dynamos, alternators, etc., and consist of a large workshop with inspection pits together with offices and storeroom above.

The total area is approximately 1,800 sq. ft. and is held on a new 5-year lease at a low fixed rental.

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The company is available immediately, with or without existing management, and for further particulars and audited accounts to year ended 31:3:76.

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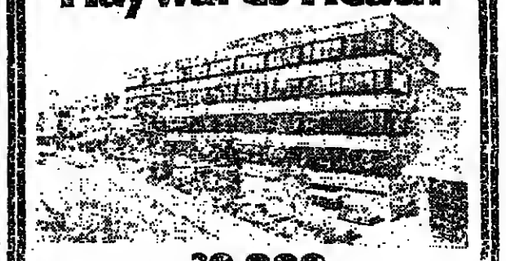

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ENTERTAINMENTS

When telephoning use prefix 01 only outside London Metropolitan Area

OPERA AND BALLET

COVENT GARDEN. 240 1066
THE ROYAL OPERA
Tonight & Wed. 7.30 La Clemenza di Tito; Tomor. & Sat. 7 CARMEN; Seats avail. Tonight & Wed.
THE ROYAL BALLET
Thurs. & Fri. 7.30 The Dream, Apollo, The Concert; Sat. 2 La Fille mal gardee. 66 Amphitheatre seats for all perfs. for sale from 10 a.m. on day.

COLISEUM 01-836 3161
ENGLISH NATIONAL OPERA
Tonight 7.30 King Roger; Tomor. & Fri. 7.30 Idomeneo; Wed. & Sat. 7 Don Carlos; Thur. 7.30 Tosca.

SADLER'S WELLS TH. Rosebery Ave. EC1 837 1673 (Recorded stg. inf. 278 3450). From Wed. THE SCOTTISH BALLET. Evs. 7.30. Mats. Sats. 2.30. Wed.: Royal Gala Perf. Thur., Fri. & Sat.: Tales of Hoffmann.

CONCERTS

COVENT GARDEN.
PROMS
29 March to 3 April, 700 STALLS PROMENADE PLACES at 50p avail. from 1 hour before curtain up.

EPSOM AT SNAPE MALTINGS
EMI previews:
Tom Jones (Oliver) 8 p.m. April 2
Cinderella (Rossini) 8 p.m. April 8
SNIT Orch./Aronwitz 3 p.m. April 14
St. John Passion 3 p.m. April 18
Lon. Mozart Plyrs./Holmes 8.30. April 17
Kaleidoscope children's Conc. Lucun Willson (cello) 11 a.m. April 18
Becking now: Aldeburgh Festival Office Tel. 072 885 2935

THEATRES

ADELPHI THEATRE. 01-836 7611
Evgs. 7.30. Mat. Thurs. Sat. 3.0
VIRGINIA McKENNA JESS ACKLAND
A LITTLE NIGHT MUSIC
BEST MUSICAL OF 1973 Awards
LAST 2 WEEKS—ENDS APRIL 3RD.

ALBERY. 836 3878 Evenings 8
SATURDAYS at 4 and 8.15
"Best performance by an Actress"—Evening Standard Award
DOROTHY TUTIN TIMOTHY WEST
DEREK JACOBI JOHN TURNER
A MONTH IN THE COUNTRY
"AN ECSTATIC EVENING". Sun Tel
LAST WEEK

ALBERY. 836 3878. Press from April 6 at 8.15. Opens April 20 at 7
National Theatre Production
COLIN BLAKELY in
EQUUS
by PETER SHAFFER
DIRECTED BY JOHN DEXTER

ALDWYCH. 836 6404. Inf. 836 5332. Royal Shakespeare Company.
Opens Friday until April 17
THE MERRY WIVES OF WINDSOR
Eve. price Prev. Wed. Thur. 7.30. Opens Fri. 7.0. Sat. 2.0 & 7.30. No perfs. tonight or tomorrow. Box Office open 10-6.

AMBASSADORS. 836 1171. Evgs. 8.0 Mat. Tues. 2.30. Sat. 5.30 & 8.30
HAPPY AS A SANDBAG
THE WONDERFUL HIT MUSICAL
"All the fun of the Forties. Super, hilarious, delightful."—D. Exp.

APOLLO THEATRE. 01-437 2663
Evenings 8.30. Sat. 6.30 & 8.30
BARRY HUMPHRIES in
HOUSEWIFE—SUPERSTAR ! !

CAMBRIDGE. 836 6056. Evenings 8.0. Wed. & Sat. 5.0 & 8.15
LONDON'S FOREMOST FAMILY MUSICAL
THE BLACK MIKADO
Best musical '76 & probably '77 S. Tms

COLLEGIATE THEATRE, Gordon St., W.C.1. 387 8295. Tonight, tomorrow and 23 March. 7.30 p.m. MARIA GOLOVIN. 24 and 26 March, 7.30 p.m. THE DUENNA.

COMEDY THEATRE 01-930 2578.
Evenings 8.0. Sat. 6.0 & 8.30.
ADAM FAITH
in CITY SUGAR
by Stephen Pollakoff
"SCATHINGLY BRILLIANT". Times
"VERY VERY FUNNY". S. Tel.
CY. STANDARD AWARD WINNER

CRITERION. 930 3216. Reduced price Prevs. Ton't & Tomor S. Eens. Wed. 7. Subs. 8. Sats. 5 & 8.
ANTON ROGERS PETER VAUGHAN
and NICOLA PAGETT in
GASLIGHT
THE WORLD FAMOUS THRILLER

DRURY LANE. 01-836 8108
Evgs. 7.30. Mat. Wed. & Sat. 2.30
MICHAEL CRAWFORD in
BILLY
A NEW MUSICAL
"MICHAEL CRAWFORD—A WHEEPING, WONDERFUL STAGE STAR." News of the World. "HE AND HIS 'HOW ARE A TREAT.'" S. Express.

DUCHESS. 836 8243. Evenings 8.0
Fri., Sat. 6.15 & 9.0
OH ! CALCUTTA !
NOW IN ITS 6TH YEAR
"Breathtakingly beautiful."—S. Tel
"The nudity is stunning."—D. Tel.

DUKE OF YORK'S. 836 5122. Evgs. 8. Fri. & Sat. 5.30. 8.30. Ends Apl. 10.
LESLIE PHILLIPS
ROY KINNEAR
"Two of the funniest men on the British stage. Laughs coming thick & fast."
ROGER'S LAST STAND
EVER 150 PERFORMANCES

CARRICK. 01-836 4601. Evgs. 8.15 Mat. Wed. 3.0 Sat. 5.0 & 8.30
RICHARD BRIERS "Marvellous" Gdn.
ABSENT FRIENDS
"ALAN AYCKBOURN'S FINEST FUNNIEST PLAY."—Harold Hobson.

GLOBE. 437 1592. Evenings 8.0. Mat. Wed. 3.0. Sat. 5.0 & 8.15.
TONY BRITTON
PETER SLYTHE, JILL MELFERE
THE CHAIRMAN
A Comedy by PHILIP MACKIE
"Most enjoyable, real delight" D.Tel.
"Wickedly revealing comedy" E. News

GREENWICH. 858 7755. Last week. Evgs. 8.0. Mat. Sat. 2.30. 5.25
BILLS. "FREDDIE JONES plays Irving's role brilliantly", Obs.

GREENWOOD. LONDON BRIDGE. Until May 22. Evgs. 8.0. Mat. Sat. 4.30. Festival du Theatre Francais. Until April 3 ARRABAL (Tonight 7.0). Simultaneous Translation. Details 403 0393.

HAMPSTEAD. 722 9301. March 29-April 3 at 7.30. DRTRUD BAGINNEN FROM BERLIN ENTERTAINS !

HAYMARKET. 930 9832. Evenings 8.0. Mat. Wed. 2.30. Sat. 5.0 & 8.15
Edward Woodward, Geraldine McEwan, Jennie Linden, Edward Hardwicke in Frederick Lonsdale's
ON APPROVAL
"You should rush to see it." D. Tel.
"It got my approval." E. News.
"An evening of comic delight." Harold Hobson, Sunday Times.

HER MAJESTY'S. 930 6606. Evg. 8. Mats. Wed. 2.30. Sats. 5.45. 8.30.
The New Hit African Musical
IPI TOMBI
"Pulsating musical."—Ev. News
"The huge cast is superb."—S. Times.

KING'S HEAD, 226 1916. Evgs. 8. (Dnr. 7). Terence Rattigan's THE BROWNING VERSION & DUOLOGUE 1.15 p.m. QUENTIN CRISP

KING'S ROAD THEATRE. 352 7488
Mon. to Th. 8.0. Fri. Sat. 7.30, 9.30.
THE ROCKY HORROR SHOW
"BEST MUSICAL OF THE YEAR"
Evening Standard Drama Award.

LYRIC IN REPERTORY. 437 3686
Thi. onr. 8.0. Wed. 3.0 & 8.0
JOAN PLOWRIGHT, HELEN MIRREN
JOHN MIDDLETON, FRANK GRIMES
THE BED BEFORE YESTERDAY
Thur. March 25 to Wed. March 31
THE SEA GULL.

LYTTELTON (one National Theatre) 928 2252. Tonight at 7.45:
PLUNDER
by Ben Travers
Tomorrow at 7:
HAMLET
150 EXCELLENT £1 SEATS ON SALE DAY OF PERFORMANCE ONLY FROM 8.30 a.m.

MAYFAIR 629 3036/493 2031
Mon.-Th. 8.15. Fri., Sat. 5.45 & 8.30
James Bolam, Jane Asher Stephen Moore in Christopher Hampton's
TREATS
"SENSATIONAL" Sunday Times.
"VERY FUNNY" Observer.
SEATS FROM 80p. THREE-COURSE DINNER AND SHOW £6.50 INCL.

MERMAID. 248 7656. Food 248 3836
Evg. 8.15. Mat. Fri., Sat. 5.15
RICHARD BECKINSALE is
"Side-splittingly funny". (D. Mail)
in FUNNY PECULIAR
"Mike Stott's exceptionally fine really entertaining, brilliant comedy." S. Times. "More good laughs than any other play in London". Observer. Seats from 75p. Dinner/Show £5.95.

NATIONAL TH.—See under Lyttelton.

OPEN SPACE 580 4970. Temp m'ship. Lunchtime 1.10 Tues. to Fri.
SENSE OF LOSS. Dir Timothy West.

PALACE. 437 6834. Mon. to Th. 8.0. Fri., Sat. 6.0 & 8.40
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FOR 7 WEEKS ONLY
Evenings 8.0. Mat. Thur., Sat. 3.0
GLYNIS JOHNS LOUIS JOURDAN
in 13 RUE DE L'AMOUR
Book Now. Tel.: 01-836 8611.

PICCADILLY. 437 4506. Preview Tonight 7.30. First Night Tomorrow at 7. Subs Mon. to Fri. 7.30. Sats. 5 & 8.15 BROADWAY'S LATEST HIT
JEROME KERN'S MUSICAL
VERY GOOD EDDIE
"AN ABSOLUTELY ENCHANTING MUSICAL"—New York Times.

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Evgs. 8.0. Mat. Wed., Sat. 3.0.
"A Great New Musical" D. Mirror.
MARDI GRAS
"Strictly for entertainment" F.T.
"Resounding success" Evening News.

QUEEN'S. 01-734 1166. Evenings 8.0 Mat. Thurs. 3.0. Sat. 6.30 & 8.30
Winner of all the awards for BEST PLAY OF THE YEAR
Michael GAMBON in Simon GRAY's
OTHERWISE ENGAGED
Directed by Harold PINTER

REGENT. 303 2070. Evenings 8.30
Fri., Sat. 7.0 & 9.15
2ND YEAR OF SENSATIONAL STAGE SHOW OF THE SEVENTIES
LET MY PEOPLE COME
AN ADULT MUSICAL
"Never a dull moment."—E. News.
100 tickets held for sale at door.

THEATRES

RAYMOND REVUEBAR THEATRE 734 1593 (7, 9, 11 p.m., inc. Sundays)
PAUL RAYMOND presents
THE FESTIVAL OF EROTICA '76

ROUND HOUSE. 267 3564. Prevs. March 29, 30 at 8. Opens March 31 at 7. Subs. 8. Angela Pleasence in THE JOURNEY.

ROYAL COURT. 730 1745
Evgs. at 8. Sats. 5 and 8.30.
PARCEL POST
by YEMI AJIBADE
"best black acting I have seen on any stage"—Tms.

ST. MARTIN'S. 836 1443. Evgs. 8 Mats. Tues. 2.45. Sats. 5 & 8
AGATHA CHRISTIE'S
THE MOUSETRAP
WORLD'S LONGEST EVER RUN
34TH YEAR

SAVOY. 836 8888. Evenings at 8. Mats. Wed. at 2.30 & Sat. 5
DEREK BOND in
AGATHA CHRISTIE'S
MURDER AT THE VICARAGE

STRAND. 836 2660. Evgs. 8.0
Mats. Thur. 3.0 Sat. 5.30 & 8.30
Doris Hare McDonald Nobby
Arthur Howard Barry Jackland
NO SEX, PLEASE WE'RE BRITISH
Directed by Allan Davis
LONDON'S LONGEST LAUGH 5th Year

THEATRE AT SEW END. 435 4176 (nr. Hampstead Tube). Rose Bruford College presents: Playing Addresses, entertainments featuring Pinero comedies, Money and Polite Society. Tonight, Wed., Fri., 7.30. Sat. 11.30. Marriage and Money. Tue., Thur., Sat. 7.30.

THEATRE ROYAL, Stratford. E.15. 01-534 0310. Evenings at 8.00
AN HILARIOUS FARCE
OUT OF PRACTICE
BY GEORGES FEYDEAU

VAUDEVILLE. 836 9988. Evgs. 8. Mats Tues. 2.45. Sats. 5 & 8
Margaret LOCKWOOD
Paul DANEMAN & Barrie INGHAM
DOUBLE EDGE
"SUPERB. The cleverest who-done-it I have seen for years." Ob. Tel.

VICTORIA PALACE 834 1317
Evgs. 8.0. Wed. 3 & Sat. 6.0 & 8.15
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LUISA ARANDA & JOSS ANTONIO
Opening April 5 for a season
TERRY SCOTT, JUNE WHITFIELD
A SEOFULL OF FOREIGNERS
London's Top Value. A night out in lovely the best stalls seat and dinner ONLY £3 Mon. to Thur.

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Evenings 8.0. Sat. 6.45. 8.0
PAUL RAYMOND presents
British No 1 Sex Symbol
FIONA RICHMOND in
COME INTO MY BED

WIMBLEDON THEATRE. 946 8211
ACTORS COMPANY
WIDOWERS' HOUSES
Opens March 30 at 7. Subs. 7.30.

WINDMILL THEATRE. 437 6312
PAUL RAYMOND presents
LET'S GET LAID
Twice nightly at 7.0 & 9.0
2nd SENSATIONAL YEAR

WYNDHAMS. 836 3028. Evgs. at 8. Sats. 6 & 8.15. Mats. Wed. at 3.
JIMMY JEWEL in
COMEDIANS
By Trevor Griffiths. "The most exciting play in London."—S. Times.
Transfer from The Old Vic.

YOUNG VIC (in Old Vic). 928 6363 (Last Perfs.). Tel 8 AS YOU LIKE IT. Tue., Wed., Thur. 8 MACBETH.

YOUNG VIC STUDIO. 928 6363.
Last Perfs. Fri. 8, Sat. 5 & 8.15 Arrabal's THE ARCHITECT & THE EMPEROR. Sat. 11 DREAMPEOPLE (8-11 yrs.).

TALK OF THE TOWN. 01-734 5051.
From 8.15. Dnr. & Dncg. At 9.30: New Revue. SWEET TEMPTATION and at 11 o.m.
LENA MARTELL

CINEMAS

ABC 1 & 2, Shaftesbury Ave. 836 8861. Sep. Perfs. ALL SEATS BKBLE.
1) THE SUNSHINE BOYS (A). Wk. & Sun.: 2.00, 5.30, 8.30. Fri. & Sat. 11.15, 7.50.
2) BARRY LYNDON (A). Wk. & Sun.: 2.25, 7.50.

ACADEMY ONE. 437 2981. Jose Luis Borau's POACHERS (AA). Progs. 1.30, 3.35, 6.40, 8.45.

ACADEMY TWO. 437 5129. James Masur AUTOBIOGRAPHY OF A PRINCESS (A) and LEGACY (X). Progs. 12.30, 3.05, 5.40, 8.20.

ACADEMY THREE. 437 8819. Marcel Carne's LES ENFANTS DU PARADIS (A). Show times 4.45, 8.0.

CASINO, Old Compton St. 437 6877. THE HINDENBURG (A). Perfs. 2.30 (not Sun.), 5.15, Sep. bkble. perf. 8.00. Late show Fri. & Sat. 11.15.

COLUMBIA, Shaftesbury Ave. 734 5414 THE MAN WHO WOULD BE KING (A). Cont. progs. Wk. 2.10, 5.00, 7.55.

CURZON, Curzon St., W.1. (499 3737). Alan Bates in Simon Gray's BUTLEY (AA). Wk. film at 2.30, 5.00, 8.30.

DOMINION, Tott Crt Rd. (580 9562) Burt Lancaster MOSES (A). Sep. progs. Wk. 2.15, 4.50, 8.0. All seats may be booked.

EMPIRE, Leicester Square. 437 1234. TO THE DEVIL ... A DAUGHTER (X). Progs. Daily 2.30, 5.30, 8.30. Sep. Perfs. All seats bookable. No phone bookings.

GATE CINEMA, Noll. Hill. 727 5750. Mizoguchi's SANSHO DAYU (A). 1.25, 3.35, 6.20, 9 & SPACEPLACE (U). 1, 3.45, 8.50. Last 4 days. CHARLIE BUBBLES (AA) & ASYLUM (X) 11.15.

LEICESTER SQUARE THEATRE 930 5828). DAVID SOUL in Nicolas Roeg's film THE MAN WHO FELL TO EARTH (X). Progs. Wk. 2.00, 5.10, 8.05. Circle seats may be booked.

ODEON HAYMARKET. (930 2738/2771). Dustin Hoffman "LENNY" (X). Sep. progs. Wk. 2.00, 5.15, 8.30. All seats may be booked.

ODEON, LEICESTER SQUARE. (930 6111). ONE FLEW OVER THE CUCKOO'S NEST (X). Cont. progs. 12.00, 3.25, 6.50, 9.10.

ODEON MARBLE ARCH 723 2011/2. THE KILLER ELITE (X). Sep. progs. Wk. 1.15, 4.45, 8.15. All seats may be booked.

ODEON ST. MARTIN'S LANE—HOME OF DISNEY MOVIES—ONE OF OUR DINOSAURS IS MISSING (U). For info. 240 0671. Box Office 836 0691. Sep. progs. Wk. 3.50, 6.45, 8.45. Feature 3.00, 6.15, 9.16. Sat. progs. 11.15 a.m., 3.50, 6.45, 9.45. Sun. progs. 3.45, 6.35, 8.45. Feature 5.15, 6.05, 9.16. Bkble.

PARIS PULLMAN, Sth. Ken. 373 5808. Norman Hesse's STEPPENWOLF (X). Progs. 2.15, 5.00, 8.15, 8.30.

PHOENIX, Opp. East Finchley Station. 883 2933. Hermann Hesse's STEPPENWOLF (X). Perfs. 2.15, 4.00, 6.15, 8.30.

PLAZA 1 & 2, Regent St., S.W.1. 839 6191. Sep. perfs. All seats bookable for eve. perfs. Box office 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. (not Suns.). No phone bookings.
1 JAWS (A). Daily: 1st perf. 1.00, 2nd perf. 3.30, 3rd perf. 6.00, 4th perf. 8.30. Late show Fri. & Sat. 11.15.
2 MAHOGANY (AA). Daily: 2.15, 4.50, 6.35, 8.50.

PRINCE CHARLES, Leic. Sq. 437 8181
2nd Great Year
EMMANUELLE (X)
Seo. perfs. dly. (inc. Sun.). 2.45, 6.16, 9.0. Late show Fri. & Sat. 11.45. Seats bkble. Lic. Bar.

RITZ, Leicester Sq. 437 1234 ZULU (U). Sep. perfs. daily. 2.15, 5.15, 8.15.

SCENE 1, 2, 3, 4, Leic. Sq. (Warner Sq.) 437 4470.
SCENE 1. Cont. Perfs. Dly. 13.30. Lic. Show Fri. & Sat. 11.03. Charles Bronson THE STREETFIGHTER (AA). 2.15, 5.45, 9.20. BLAZING SADDLES (AA). 13.30, 4.00, 7.35. Lic. Show Fri. & Sat. 11.05.
SCENE 2. 3rd YEAR. THE EXORCIST (X). Directed by William Friedkin. Sep. Perfs. Dly. 12.30, 3.00, 6.15, 9.00. Lic. Show Fri. & Sat. 11.45.
SCENE 3. 2nd YEAR. THE TOWERING INFERNO (A). Sep. Perfs. Dly. 2.00, 5.30, 8.40. Lic. Show Fri. & Sat. 11.45.
SCENE 4. Cont. Dly. 1.00. Lic. Show Fri. & Sat. 12.30. Ken Russell's TOMMY (AA). Progs. 1.00, 3.45, 6.30, 9.15. Lic. Show Fri. & Sat. 12.00.

WARNER WEST END
Leicester Square. Tel. 439 0791.
1 THE MASTER GUNFIGHTER (AA). Sep. progs. 2.30, 5.30, 8.30. Last 3 days.
2 ALOHA, BOBBY AND ROSE (AA). Cont. progs. 2.10, 4.20, 6.20, 8.25. Last 3 days.
3 OPERATION DAYBREAK (AA). Sep. progs. 2.30, 5.20, 8.30.
4 AL PACINO in DOG DAY AFTERNOON (X). Cont. progs. 2.10, 5.00, 7.50.

ART GALLERIES

AGNEW GALLERY, 43 Old Bond St., W.1. 629 6176. MASTER DRAWINGS AND PRINTS until 15 April. Mon.-Fri., 9.30-5.30; Thurs. until 7.

ANTHONY d'OFFAY, 11 Sering St., W.1 GWEN JOHN
Mon.-Fri.: 10-5.30. 01-629 1578

BRITISH MUSEUM, THRACIAN TREASURES FROM BULGARIA. On loan from the People's Republic of Bulgaria. Until 28 March. Wkdys. 10-5 and 5.30-7 on Thursdays only. Last admission 6.30. Suns. 2.30-6. Adm. free.

CONTEMPORARY PRINTS. — Royal Society of Painter-Etchers and Engravers Annual Exhibition, 25 Conduit Street, W.1. Until March 26th.

DRIAN GALLERIES, 5-7 Duke Street Place, Marble Arch, W.1. EASIL ALKAZZI. Arab Artist. 10.30-5. Sat.: 11-1.

GERALD M. HERMAN GALLERY 6 Duke St., St. James's, S.W.1. 839 7345 Exhibition
AN AGE OF TASTE
Fine 18th and 19th Century English Watercolours and Drawings 17th-27th March.

HAMPTON HILL GALLERY
203 & 205 Hint St., Hampton Hill, Middlesex. 01-977 1379, 3373. Paintings and water-colours of London and Whitstable by Ernest Hamilton Amor (1889-1967) 22nd March-3rd April 1976 Daily 9-6 except Sundays

HEIM, 59 Jermyn Street, S.W.1. Drawings by John Flaxman until 9th April. Mon.-Fri., 10-5.30.

LEFEVRE GALLERY. — Contemporary Paintings and Drawings. Weekdays 10-5; Saturdays 10-1.—30 Bruton Street, London, W.1. 493 1572/3.

MARLBOROUGH, 6 Albemarle St., W.1. KOKOSCHKA Canvases and Landscapes. A 90th birthday Tribute Loan Exhibition in aid of the Save the Children Fund. 200 Illus. Cat. Adm. 30p. Student, 20p. Mon.-Fri.: 10-5.30. Sat.: 10-12.30. Until 10 April.

ART GALLERIES

PARKIN GALLERY, 11 Motcomb St., S.W.1. 235 8124. Modern British Watercolours. from 17th March.

REDFERN GALLERY, BRYAN KNEALE New Sculptor. 2-23 March
20 Cork Street, London, W.1.

ROLAND, BROWSE & DELBANCO, 19 Cork St., W.1 01-734 7984. Kokoschka: lectures in Ireland. Until 9th April. Mon.-Fri. 10-5.30.

ROYAL ACADEMY OF ARTS. THE MICHELANGELO MADONNA AND OTHER TREASURES IN THE PRIVATE ROOMS. Until 31st Oct. Wkdys. 10-6. (closed Tuesdays). Suns. 2-6. Adm. 50p.

SERPENTINE GALLERY, Kensington Gdns. (Arts Council). A selection of Previous Exhibitors. Until 28 March. Daily 10-6. Adm. free.

WILDENSTEIN
147 New Bond Street, W.1.
HUBERT YENCESSE
Sculpture and Drawings
Weekdays 10-5.30, Saturdays 10-12.30
Until 31st March
Admission free

The Times Special Reports.
All the subject matter on all the subjects that matter

Tonight 8.00
Most exciting play in London (S. Times)
Jimmy Jewel in
COMEDIANS
by Trevor Griffiths
Very funny. (Guardian)
Wyndham's Theatre
01-836 3028

MONDAY BOOK

The Painters: H. H. Armstead's east front of podium, Albert Memorial (detail)

A matter of taste

Bevis Hillier

Rediscoveries in Art

Some aspects of Taste, Fashion & Collecting in England and France.

By Francis Haskell

(*Phaidon*, £8.50)

The contents of this immensely perceptive and entertaining book, based on the Wrightsman Lectures which Professor Haskell delivered in New York in 1973, are imperfectly suggested by its title, or by the sub-title, so all-comprehending as to be vague. When a Francis Haskell of the future sets to anatomizing the art-historiography of today, he will tease us about our insatiable fondness for "rediscoveries" and "reassessments"—the insistence on endless novelty, spilling over from art creation and art criticism into art history. The book might more suitably have been called *The Levers of Taste*, or *The Mechanics of Taste* (though this is rather Arthur Mee) *Taste in Art: Why and How does it Change*? Those, at least, are the questions to which Professor Haskell offers a partial answer.

George III, talking about his new building at Kew in 1804, said he "*should* have thought it impossible 30 years ago that he should ever encourage Gothic architecture". What made him change his mind? Why did Sir Robert Peel, and most of his contemporaries, admire certain types of Dutch painting which had been of little interest a hundred years earlier? Is the process of changing tastes one of inexorable cycles? Is there any stability in the estimates of genius: are there any masters so great that they do not "abide our question"?

Professor Haskell takes as an early talking-point the visual parades, pantheons and panoramas of Old Masters by which artists of the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries made plain their preferences: Ingres's *The Apotheosis of Homer*, Nicaise de Keyser's *The Antwerp School of Painters*, Delaroche's *Hemicycle painted for the Ecole des Beaux-Arts*, Overbeck's *Triumph of Religion in the Arts*, the figures on the Albert Memorial and—earlier than all these—James Barry's mural in the Society of Arts.

The main part of the book is devoted to showing how taste has been affected, and sometimes manipulated: by exhibitions, by tourism, by private purchase, by the pillage of war, by the redistribution of artworks in vast European upheavals such as the French revolution, by books, collectors' clubs, speculation, showing-off by the *nouveau riche*, the development of new techniques of reproducing illustrations, leading to the "Museum without walls", by guidebooks such as Baedeker's and Murray's, by art magazines and by emotional, "literary" writing about art by Goethe, Stendhal, Pater, Ruskin.

This strictly historical treatment is presented with the *greatest erudition* and wit. There are a hundred sentences or phrases which art history examiners will be tempted to set in examinations with a "Discuss". Among the best: *It requires far greater judgment to buy cheap than expensive pictures.*

There are treasures from other authors, too, such as Sir William Stirling-Maxwell's description of an El Greco ("he might have painted it, by fitful flashes of lightning, on a midsummer night, from models dressed only in floating rib-bands") or the mischievous remark of John Addington Symonds, which so shocked Roger Fry: "Of course we are all very thankful to Botticelli for having inspired those fine pages of Walter Pater".

The book lives up to its title to the extent that there are indeed some fascinating *chansons de geste* of the men who "rediscovered" (or, more properly, "discovered") some of the artists whose genius we now take for granted: J.-B.-P. Le Brun, who lauded the virtually forgotten Vermeer in 1792, and Théophile Thoré, who established Vermeer's reputation; Séroux d'Agincourt and Lady Callcott (author of *Little Arthur's History of England*) who espoused the Italian primitives; Pietro Selvatico, who hailed G. B. Tiepolo; Lord Lindsey who had "an extraordinary understanding of Piero della Francesca's frescoes in Arezzo"; the Baron Isidore Taylor, one of the first men outside Spain to appreciate the full genius of El Greco and Goya; Stirling-Maxwell who was a pioneer propagandist for William Blake.

With all its merits, the book has two failings. One must never chide an author for not doing what he did not set out to do; but one does long for Professor Haskell to progress beyond the "how" of changes in taste, to the "why". To start the ball rolling, I would suggest that one consideration might be what a sociologist would probably call the ennui factor. People do not only get tired of bad things, they get tired of good ones too. Disraeli recognized this when he made Vivian Grey say "Let us have some bad wine; I am tired of the good". Churchill indicated the same phenomenon in politics when he astutely wrote of Sir Robert Walpole's ministry: "The country was bored. It rejected a squalid, peaceful prosperity". Professor Haskell is so perceptive, and so articulate about his perceptions, that one wishes he would snap his history books shut for a while and venture some more theories.

The other flaw is a slightly unfortunate de *haut en bas* stance: the attitude of what he himself calls the "professional" art historian. On the same page he calls Joseph Archer Crowe an "ambitious Grub Street journalist aged 32"; and although he has the grace to acknowledge, albeit in a grudging footnote, that Crowe was "a competent draughtsman and knowledgable scholar", and that Crowe's books "remain the earliest in date still to merit regular consultation" an unengaging note of superciliousness lingers. Professor Haskell should remember that journalists create some of the documents which future art historians will snuffle through to produce those profound theses of which so many remain unpublished.

His own book shows that the most heroic art-historical discoveries have been made by men with no "professional" art-history training: Thoré, the Vermeer-discoverer whom he *claims as* "the archetypal hero of this book" was a left-wing politician and, yes, a journalist. If Thoré had had the chance of a Courtauld Institute or Warburg Institute training, the chances are that he would have come away knowing what to think about all the masters of the past, content to produce a thesis on a recognized genius rather than acclaim a new one.

Two for Tours

The Musée des Beaux-Arts at Tours will be staging two major exhibitions later this year. In May and June the Etruscan collection from the Louvre will be on show. Then on October 28 opens *Alechinsky à Pimprimerie*, which will be devoted to the graphic work of Alechinsky, with particular reference to his years of study in Japan.

Richard Stoker has his hands full

Richard Stoker has received two commissions from Huddersfield Arts Council with funds provided by the Arts Council of Great Britain for two new works for a concert at Huddersfield Town Hall on May 22. The first, to be scored for four grand pianos—16 hands (eight pianists)—will be his Op 51, to be called *Assemblages*.

The second is *Portrait of a Town* for speaker and two pianos, with a text by the composer.

Mr Stoker is also working on two full-length operas, the first based on Zola's *Thérèse Raquin* with libretto by Tom Hawkes, the second a chamber-opera to a version of *Twelfth Night*. His first full-length opera, *Johnson Preserv'd* was produced in London in 1967.

Peter Darrell belongs to Glasgow

You can judge how far Scottish Ballet has come since its last visit to London six years ago by the fact that the new season at Sadler's Wells opens on Wednesday with a gala starring Margot Fonteyn on stage and Princess Margaret off. It is a far cry from the days when Peter Darrell and the remnants of his gallant but impoverished Western Theatre Ballet moved north of the border to seek their fortune in a new homeland.

I visited Darrell in his Glasgow home: a handsome stone terraced house close by the university and the BBC's studios. How did he enjoy life there, I asked. "Good; personally, good; for the company, marvellous. We would never have been able to do what we have done if we had stayed in London, if we had been able to continue at all. We would not have had the money or the theatre.

"And Glasgow, whatever one says about it, is not a bad city. I only wish they would stop knocking it down and start cleaning it instead."

I remarked how lucky it was that the only classical ballet with a Scottish subject happened to be particularly suitable for a medium-sized company such as Scottish Ballet. "Yes, although actually *La Sylphide* is the hardest work to sell at the box office, but audiences love it when they see it. And I think Bournonville's soft style suits the company. Then we have *Giselle*, and we have ventured into Petipa with *Pequita*, which is good because it stretches the dancers.

"Audiences in Scotland have been very enthusiastic about these works, and *Heffmann* too, which is not really a classic but I suppose a kind of pop classic. Triple bills are harder, but that is true everywhere, and we have been able to do whatever we really wanted to do."

Photograph by Anthony Crickmay

Pioneers bringing ballet to new areas sometimes find themselves criticized for not making enough use of local talent or subjects. I asked Darrell whether he had encountered this. "No, we don't have that problem. We have in fact used Scottish choreographers: Walter Gore is one, and you cannot have a much more Scottish theme than *Embers of Glencoe* which he did for us.

"Also we have, although not in current repertory, one and a quarter ballets by Kenneth MacMillan: *Las Hermanas* and the little *Valse Excentrique*. And I suppose I am Scottish now by adoption. But there was no pressure on me at all to do *Mary, Queen of Scots*. I wanted to do it because it is such a marvellous story and a marvellous role.

"It is my most classical ballet, as you saw for yourself. I have tried to do it all in classical dancing. I don't know whether that is good or bad, but it seemed to me the right way. It has turned out longer than we expected—too long; now I have to trim and cut. By the time you see it in London it will be tighter."

The premiere of *Mary* was given in Glasgow's new opera house, resplendent for the occasion with Sir John Lavery's painting of Pavlova in her *Autumn Bacchanale*, on loan from the City Art Gallery and hanging on the main stair. "That was a surprise. It must have been organized by Scottish Opera, without telling us. I was delighted.

"Sharing the Theatre Royal with the opera has made a great difference. We did *Nutcracker* at Christmas in repertory and sold every seat at every performance. Now we have had our own season while they are on tour. I can see a change in the way the company dances here, with more authority each season. We are no longer vagabonds; we have a home.

"I would like to take advantage of our association with Scottish Opera to produce some works in collaboration. I want very much to do *Four Saints in Three Acts*. I find Virgil Thomson's music very exciting, and as far as I know there has been only one amateur production in Britain, at Cambridge years ago. In fact I am not sure it has been given anywhere professionally since Ashton produced the premiere in New York in 1934.

"It would be interesting to do *Prince Igor*, too, with the Fokina choreography of course. Luckily, Scottish Opera think big, too."

John Percival

Mardi Gras
Prince of Wales

Irving Wardle

Here, notwithstanding VAT, comes another big one: eleven principals and a seething New Orleans chorus; a cornucopian wardrobe, and mechanized set by Farrah blending the squalor and glitter of the town in an array of gilded wrought-iron and fire-escapes: and, inset within it all, the story of a young Chicago guitar player who hits the Crescent City and falls for its costliest courtesan.

Heaven knows, it may have been a story that Melvyn Bragg wanted to tell; but the impression one gets is that someone had a vision of staging the great pre-Ash Wednesday blowout, and that the plot was thought up as a pretext for the parade of revivalists, voodoo dancers, whores, and jazzmen who bring the show to its climax with a Mardi Gras party.

However, it is impossible to ignore the book. For one thing, it is an attention-catching exercise for an English writer to produce three hours of passable *American dialogue*; and, for another Mr Bragg has chosen to tell a story of *Carmen*-like intensity, ending with a knifing and a shoot-out in the midst of the revels. Stylistically, he has produced a most scrupulous pastiche: not only the local references, and general grasp of the language, but in distinct revivalist and French-American speech rhythms.

But he has not been able to resist the temptation to pass on the fruits of his research through the mouth of a bartender who fills in the New Orleans background like a tourist guide, and brings the show to an end with a run-down on the characters' future fortunes in the manner of a Jane Austen novel.

In the plot itself, love does its usual deadly work. Lorne and his Creole beloved, Celandine, are quite an interesting pair for as long as they are sparring aggressively; but as soon as they melt together, the life drains out of them and out of their lines. Mr Bragg then introduces a villain in the person of one M le Grand, a sort of Sun King of the underworld, who attempts to annexe Celandine as his Mardi Gras queen; and the atmosphere thickens into stiff melodramatics that take one back to the world of Boucicault.

Musically the show is split between riotous evocations of Storeyville and dutifully characterless ballads that support the love plot. Alan Blaikley and Ken Howard score one brilliant success in a straight Salvationist hymn interwoven with a bitterly unbelieving solo part for Celandine. Dana Gillespie puts that across beautifully; likewise her second act blues. More often, the production numbers get dramatically out of hand, as in a fantasy number for one of Celandine's less pricey colleagues which becomes engulfed in countermarching troops in body stockings.

The title number itself is suspiciously reminiscent of Piaf's *Milord*.

Nicky Henson, as the luckless Lorne, opens with a tremendous burst of energy which unavoidably subsides into inert suffering as the part collapses under him. However, he remains a hero who can play his own guitar. Choreography does not stop short at Paddy Stone's production numbers, as the whole of Clifford Williams's production shows a painstaking concern with stylized movement; and, in performances like Gregory Munroe's grinning assassin and Marsha Hunt's Voodoo Woman, the production achieves flashes of comedy missing from the book.

In reviewing Yemi Ajibade's *Parcel Post* I commented on several obscurities in the plot which, the Royal Court informs me, are explained in passages of the text whose Nigerian dialect I failed to disentangle. My apologies to the artists concerned.

THE ARTS

La Fille mal gardée
Royal, Norwich

John Percival

After an absence of six years, *La Fille mal gardée* returned to the repertory of the Royal Ballet's touring company on Friday. By coincidence, the other Royal Ballet had danced it at Covent Garden the night before, with Alexander Grant and Leslie Edwards in their original roles, Nureyev partnering Merle Park and Ronald Emblem as Widow Simone. That is a strong team to follow even though Nureyev, not fully over his illness, was handicapped by breathlessness in his solos.

But the smaller company need fear no comparisons. In fact, the liveliness of their performance as a whole, right down to the smallest roles, made me enjoy it even more than at the Garden. Most of the young dancers have come to *Fille* for the first time, but it would be unfair to attribute their zest just to that, because an appearance of enthusiastic freshness is a hallmark of their company style.

Brenda Last is an enchanting Lise. She alone from the touring company is returning to a role she danced before. Her understanding of the part shews in a host of tiny details, such as the way she finds the ribbon for the loveknot in her apron pocket as a result of wiping a

SPORT

Football

London awakens to possibility of taking League championship

By Norman Fox

The question posed on Saturday morning was whether any of the first division's leading four clubs, separated by only two points, could steal an away win and a night advantage. It was in character with a day of strange events that all four should collect maximum points leaving the top of the table unchanged, but fractionally giving Queen's Park Rangers nearer the title in the minds of many who previously doubted their ability to stay with Manchester United, Liverpool and Derby County.

There are two obvious arguments in favour of Rangers. First, their remaining six fixtures only two are away. Their unbeaten home record is equalled only by Manchester United which is all the more creditable when considering a comparison between the three advantages of these two clubs. On the one hand there is the tumult of Old Trafford, on the other the virtual indifference of Goodners towards their prospective champions. Secondly, Rangers are the only ones of the top four not involved in a second competition. United and Derby meet in the semi-final round of the FA Cup, and Liverpool are still England's standard bearer in the Uefa Cup.

One bookmaker, admittedly London based, installed Rangers as 2-1 favourites after Saturday's excellent 1—0 win at Stoke. But it is over the last few paces of the race that stamina and character is stretched, so it is as well to look at what lies ahead for each of the four contenders:

Queen's Park Rangers: Home: Manchester City (March 27), Middlesbrough (April 10), Arsenal (April 19), Leeds (April 24). Away: Newcastle (April 31, Norwich (April 17).

Manchester United: Home: Middlesbrough (March 27), Manchester City (to be arranged), Everton (April 17) Stoke (April 21). Away: Ipswich (April 10), Burnley (April 19), Leicester (April 24).

Liverpool: Home: Burnley (March 27), Everton (April 31, Leicester (April 13), Stoke (April 17). Away: Aston Villa (April 10), Manchester City (April 19), Wolverhampton (April 24).

Derby County: Home: Stoke (March 24), Birmingham (March 27), Leicester (April 17), Everton (April 21). Away: Manchester City (April 10), Aston Villa (April 19), Ipswich (April 24).

Rangers have one immediate problem. Francis, who should have been playing for England against Wales on Wednesday, was missing from Saturday's match and his damaged heel could stop him from playing against Manchester City next Saturday. Dave Sexton, the manager, said: "He has been told to rest for four days." Incidentally, that international match at Wrexham (it is indeed football!) has lost two more of the weakened England team, Madeley and Bertie, both hurt on Saturday, and Toshack, of Wales. Don Revie, the England manager, has called up Neal, of Liverpool, who could find himself in the team because of the lack of defenders available. The loss of Toshack is a great disappointment for Wales, for whom he usually plays outstandingly, but was to be expected as he missed Liverpool's 1—0 win

A poor back pass allowed Fairclough, Toshack's replacement, to score his first League goal, yet around the country that type of mistake was commonplace. At Newcastle, Manchester United were given two own goals in a match that the wind and defensive mistakes turned into an extraordinary and highly entertaining farce. At one point United were losing 3—2 after leading 2—0, but their exuberance is such that shocks quickly go to earth.

Derby's solid 2—0 win at Middlesbrough (another goal for George) was uneventful by comparison. At Newcastle, someone who had seen two own goals broke the news that this was nothing by comparison with what was happening at Leicester, where Aston Villa's defender, Nicholl, scored all four goals—two for Villa, two for the opposition.

Two penalty saves in the Football League on Saturday. Top, Lawson, of Everton, dives to stop Frank Gray's kick but Bremner ran in to score. Below, Ross, of Carlisle, saves from Channon (Southampton).

Many blunders but no mistaking United

By Norman Fox

If Manchester United can expect an away victory from a match as bizarre as that at St James' Park on Saturday, the question of whether they are fully equipped to win the championship against all manner of obstacles and more experienced opponents is inputably answered.

At face value it might be thought that having been given two own goals and presented with a simple lead by Newcastle United, they could have won more comfortably than by 4—3. That, of course, is to judge them by the mean attitudes to which others, less manic and bold, boringly conform. The clamp is not a tool United can or want to use. Newcastle were offered almost as much generosity as they had shown and, despite being comprehensively outplayed for about 20 minutes of the second half, they came within a goal line's width of drawing in a resounding finish.

This, I suggest, was one of the most exciting, entertaining, comical, mistake-besprinkered first division matches ever to miss the eyes of the television cameras. And 41,000 people mysteriously failed to attend, though it was an all-ticket game. It deserved a nationwide audience, yet will be remembered by only 41,000—but by those probably for a lifetime. The football was not memorable. A strong, influential wind blew from goal to goal, causing some of the game's curiosities without being the sole cause of many difficulties.

Only two of the seven goals were not caused or effected by mistakes or misfortune and, significantly, one was Manchester United's winner on the hour when Coppell escaped along the line, turned low, and Pearson glanced the ball into goal to finish what has become Manchester United's trademark move. Only then did their effervescent, spontaneous skills have Newcastle throwing themselves this way and that across the goalmouth.

The eccentric nature of the whole affair dictated that United would be losing 3-2 at one point after leading 2-0 from 15 minutes in a strange incident. It was to the 13th minute that the wind, blowing from behind Newcastle's goal, first caused trouble. Cassidy, with time to take a compass bearing, astonishingly turned and attempted a lobbed back pass to Jones. Pearson had seen the possibilities, sprinted ahead, intercepted the ball and struck a neat goal. For this audacity he was later punished by several kicks on the legs which could cause him to miss tomorrow's under-23 international match at Old Trafford.

Not three minutes had gone by than Bird, 20 yards from his own goal, also chose to back pass when in no danger and his lob went over Jones's head for a perfect goal for the opposition, who themselves suddenly became afflicted by almost the same sense of generosity. Buchan, who generally played coolly and thoughtfully, misplaced a pass and Burns snatched it up to skip round Stepney and shoot in. But as if to break this crazy daydream Newcastle then set up a goal in a thousand. Barrowclough made ground in his own half, pushed the ball out to Craig on the extreme left and he curled a huge centre into the penalty area. Macdonald dived forwards into what seemed a red well yet his powerful header broke through past Stepney.

Macdonald was at his swaggering best and before half-time he ran at a disorganized United defence and hit a drive towards the far corner—Stepney was already flying across and would have got a touch had Gowling not deflected the ball out of his reach. For a time Newcastle pushed United off course but it was rendered useless when a corner by McIlroy was headed past Jones by one of his own defenders. Howard. So United accepted the gift and finally Pearson packaged it, though in the final minutes Houston twice had to save off the line.

NEWCASTLE UNITED: R. Jones; I. Nattrass, A. Kennedy, S. Barrowclough, J. Bird, P. Howard, M. Burns, T. Cassidy, (sub: G. Oates), M. Macdonald, A. Gowling, T. Craig.

MANCHESTER UNITED: A. Stepney; A. Forsyth, S. Houston, G. Daly, R. Greenhoff, M. Buchan, S. Coppell, S. McIlroy, S. Pearson, D. McCreery, G. Hill.

Referee: D. Turner (Cannock).

Heirs unapparent for the crown

By Clive White

The anti-small miracle brigade nodded knowingly as Queen's Park Rangers, the heirs unapparent to the League championship, clodhopped their way through the first 25 minutes at the Victoria Ground on Saturday. How or why Stoke City, with their rapier thrusts, failed to impale Rangers's chunky, hooped frames and hopes to the ground during that period is a question for the gods. But Rangers did survive and shamed the nonbelievers once again by winning 1—0 to bring their recent tally of points to 17 out of 18.

"Is that championship form?" a young, bright-eyed reporter fished afterwards.

"Six of them away from home", Dave Sexton, the Rangers manager, replied succinctly.

"Championship form?" iterated the reporter.

"Six of them away from home", iterated Mr Sexton.

Non-committal though he may be, Mr Sexton looks a contented man as his team leads the field into the home straight. And as he measures the remaining obstacles before the winning post a feeling of undeniable optimism must well up inside him. For the last six matches four of the opposition must come down to "the Bush", where Rangers are unbeaten, and that includes the three best sides they have to play—Manchester City, Middlesbrough and Leeds. Sceptics please note.

To be honest, they looked a bunch of unlikely lads in the first half on Saturday as Stoke pummelled them with an enterprise which blossomed from the early inspiration of Hudson, by far the more impressive of the two brilliant No 10s on show. The other was Bowles, of course.

Those daft little touches of Hudson's with the outside of his foot were there, as usual to be enjoyed, as was the arrogant clear-headedness when doing the simple thing in classtopbobic situations. Less familiar was the amount of grafting he did. Haslegrave, Salmons and Greenhoff responded with fierce, confident strikes one of which smacked the forehead of the Rangers goal and the others parried and punched inelegantly but thankfully to safety by Parkes.

But, Rangers's desperate fumblings eventually gave way to more controlled play in defence and Hudson was pushed further unfield to less productive pastures. Rangers's gentle goal just after the half hour was naturally an injustice. Masson flipped the ball over a players' wall, Marsh collided with a Rangers player, and the ball bounced obligingly to Webb, whose stab at it caused the ball to wriggle through Shilton's hands and roll limply over the line. Until then Shilton had looked as safe as the Banks of England (and Stoke).

Webb, who has scored several decisive goal to his life, the last in November, a 90th minute winner, ironically, against Stoke, may have reason to remember this softy above all the rest on the day of reckoning in late April.

STOKE CITY: P. Shilton; J. Marsh, M. Pejic, J. Mahoney, R. Smith, A. Dodd, S. Haslegrave, J. Greenhoff, B. Goodwin, A. Hudson, G. Salmons (sub, J. Richardson).

QUEEN'S PARK RANGERS: P. Parkes; D. Clement, I. Gillard, J. Hollins, F. McLintock, D. Webb, R. Thomas, M. Leach, R. Masson, S. Bowles, R. Stevens.

Referee: R. Courtney (Sunnymoor, co Durham).

Derby win with minimum of effort

By Tom German

Derby County are becoming adept at picking Middlesbrough's pockets. A year ago at Ayresome Park, as Middlesbrough, in an unguarded moment, took their hand off their wallet, Derby snatched it in the shape of an equalizer in the last few seconds to give unexpected impetus to their progress towards the championship. On Saturday they stole two goals without response in a match heavily dominated in a territorial sense by the Teesside club and so remained in the thick of the championship congestion.

This, though, was not the free-flowing Derby, threatening across the full width of the front. It was an occasion for prudence, right order in defence, and seizing what they could from their few opportunities. They did both admirably and, in the process, offered a text book on maximum return with economy of effort.

Middlesbrough are a side without frills, though Cooper, still an effective supporting raider going forward from his full back position in the manner of his Leeds days, lent them some variety of approach. Eagerly and energetically, they aligned their sights on Derby's goal, persistently using the high ball even though McFarland and his fellow defenders showed they could cope with it, but still generating enough momentum to carry them forward for much of the match.

If Middlesbrough complain they never got a kindly bounce of the ball, it would be no more than the truth. Even when Foggon, brought on early in the second half to provide even more attacking strength, reached out a leg to hook at a ball near a Derby post as the Midlanders underwent their severest test, the ball surprisingly curled away from goal

Derby's goals, one in each half, while catching Middlesbrough stretched thin at the back, nevertheless demonstrated the deadliness of the champions' finishing. Hector provided James with a shooting chance after 33 minutes; the Welshman made an awful hash of it, barely making contact, but the ball spun away across the box, came off McAndrew's toe end and went straight to the incoming George who does not miss chances of that sort.

The second, to Derby's great relief, came seven minutes from the end. The pressure was lifted with a long clearance which Hector pursued; he and Hickton fell in the tussle for the ball but Hector was up again like a jack-in-the-box to plant a shot past the astonished Platt. On such moments of skill and enlightenment championships hinge.

MIDDLESBRUGH: J. Platt; F. Spraggon (sub A. Foggon), T. Cooper, G. Souness, B. Boam, A. McAndrew, P. Boersma, D. Mills, J. Hickton, W. Maddren, D. Armstrong.

DERBY COUNTY: G. Moseley; R. Thomas, D. Nish, R. Newton, R. McFarland, C. Todd, B. Powell, A. Gemmill, K. Hector, G. George, L. James.

Referee: K. Walmsley (Blackpool).

When men go to Wembley on boys' errand

By Tom Freeman

The biggest attendance at any football match in England on Saturday was not, as you might have thought, at Newcastle, where Manchester United were the visitors, but at Wembley, where a crowd of 50,000 saw England Boys beat Wales Boys 4—1 and prove beyond doubt that they were heavier, faster and cleverer than their opponents.

England, of course, are used to beating Wales in these schoolboy internationals. They have been doing it consistently for the last 30 years to my knowledge. The only surprising thing about Saturday's match is that England did not score more goals. In fact they did get the ball into the net twice in the first half but the referee disallowed the goals because of previous offences, and they just missed the target on many other occasions.

For anyone trying the old game of picking out future adult internationals it was a field day. At least three England and one Welsh player came into my personal reckoning. Andrew Ritchie, a stocky 15-year-old from Cheadle, earmarked for Manchester United, of course, scored two goals and demonstrated such strength in his shooting and such skill with his feet and head that he looked almost ready to line up with Don Revie's lot now. The same could be said of Wayne Clarke, who looks astonishing like his famous big brother Alan, and Michael Fillery, a strong, powerful player in the Bonds mould. The most interesting Welsh boy was Micallef, a clever, forceful player who unfortunately was carried off with torn ligaments near the end of the first half.

So England were bigger, bolder and better. But let me be fair to Wales. They always played with plenty of spirit in spite of some appalling luck. Their troubles started early in the game when Hansen, their goalkeeper, was laid out, continued with the departure of Micallef, and ended just before the final whistle when the brave Hansen was carried off with a broken leg. It was a rotten day all round for Hansen, who presented England with their third goal when he made a mess of a high bouncing ball and let in Ritchie.

Although Clarke was frequently causing havoc with his floating, inswinging corners England did not actually score until half an hour had gone. Then, from one of Clarke's corners Brignull headed in, this being quickly followed by a similar goal from Ritchie.

Lewis unexpectedly scored for Wales just before half-time but it was still a matter of how many goals England would get. They managed two more—Ritchie's effort being followed by a fine header from McGrath. Then came a quiet final period, with Wales surprisingly, showing that they had the better stamina. At least they looked the fresher and played their best football in this period.

Over the years, it has seemed to me, 15-year-old footballers, unlike policemen, have become older and older. The only difference now between them and men is that they do not lose their tempers as easily.

ENGLAND: S. Foster (Norwich); C. Wardle (Bury), G. Sisman (North Herts), B. Ormsby (Birmingham), P. Brignull (Bradford), M. Fillery (Merton), W. Clarke (Walsall), P. Walker (Slough), A. Ritchie (Stockport), S. Jasper (Bristol) sub, C. Allen (Hayorthe), M. McGrath (Southampton).

WALES: M. Hansen (Swansea) sub, S. Plunkett (Flint); D. Martin (Cwyd Coast), P. Minney (Afan Hedd), sub, M. Botto (Swansea), K. Ratcliffe (Flint), D. Piper (Newport), J. Lucas (Swansea), D. Haggett (Cynon Valley), J. Wilkins (Afan Hedd), P. Lewis (Swansea), G. Micallef (Cardiff) sub, D. Aviss (Flint), R. Lloyd (Wrexham).

Referee: L. Southall (Wolverhampton).

Scotland lose two of their under-23 men

Andy Gray (Aston Villa) and Joe Craig (Partick Thistle) have both withdrawn from the Scotland under-23 pool for Wednesday night's European Championship quarter final, second leg against Holland at Easter Road.

Gray has a thigh strain and Craig bruised a shoulder playing for the Scottish League against the Football League.

The Scotland team manager, Willie Ormond, has called in Peter Dickson (Queen of the South) and Joe Smith (Aberdeen) as replacements to join the Scotland players in an Edinburgh hotel today.

Derby's 21,000 tickets for the FA Cup semi final against Manchester United at Hillsborough on April 3 were snapped up at the Baseball Ground yesterday.

Weekend results and tables

First division

Bristol	6	West Ham	1
Fulham	1	Coventry	1
Burnley	1	Tottenham	2
Derby	1	Leeds	1
Leicester	2	Aston Villa	2
Manchester C	3	Wolverhampton	2
Middlesbrough	0	Derby	2
Newcastle	3	Manchester U	4
Norwich	1	Liverpool	1
Sheffield U	1	Ipswich	2
Stoke	0	QP Rangers	1

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
QP Rangers	30	14	11	5	34	25	39
Manchester U	30	14	10	6	51	29	38
Liverpool	30	14	10	6	41	27	38
Derby	30	13	9	8	39	33	35
Leeds	30	12	11	7	41	31	35
Manchester C	30	13	10	7	34	30	35
Ipswich	30	11	11	8	36	31	33
Middlesbrough	30	13	10	11	37	32	36
Arsenal	30	11	11	8	37	34	33
Stoke	30	13	10	9	34	34	36
West Ham	30	12	8	10	41	38	32
Leicester	30	11	9	10	42	39	31
Everton	30	12	7	11	39	36	31
Aston Villa	30	12	6	12	38	35	30
Coventry	30	10	10	10	37	37	30
Norwich	30	11	8	11	30	35	30
Birmingham	30	7	13	10	32	35	27
Wolverhampton	30	8	8	14	30	37	24
Bristol	30	7	10	13	30	38	24
Sheffield U	30	2	9	19	24	70	13

Second division

Bristol C	0	Fulham	0
Charlton	0	Blackburn	1
Chelsea	0	Bristol R	0
Hull	1	Blackpool	2
Millwall	1	Sunderland	1
Orient	3	Luton	0
Oxford U	1	Portsmouth	1
Southampton	1	Carlisle	1
West Bromwich	4	Bolton	0
York	3	Nottm Forest	2

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Bristol C	33	19	12	2	57	30	50
Sunderland	32	18	8	6	51	32	45
Bolton	33	16	10	7	39	31	42
West Bromwich	34	16	11	7	50	30	43
Southampton	34	16	7	11	56	40	39
Aston Villa	33	16	7	10	42	28	39
Luton	33	16	7	10	39	33	39
Notts Forest	33	13	10	10	42	32	36
Chelsea	33	12	11	10	36	32	35
Oldham	33	12	11	10	49	55	35
Charlton	33	14	7	12	50	56	35
Fulham	33	14	10	9	37	33	34
Bristol R	33	10	14	10	31	33	34
Hull	33	13	7	13	37	40	33
Blackpool	33	11	11	11	35	40	33
Orient	33	11	10	12	30	31	32
Portsmouth	33	11	10	12	44	48	32
Plymouth	33	11	10	12	37	40	32
Carlisle	33	11	12	10	38	50	32
Blackburn	33	7	15	11	35	44	29
Oxford U	33	8	11	14	32	38	27
Portsmouth	33	8	6	21	26	48	22
York	33	8	5	21	30	59	21

Third division

Brighton	2	Swindon	3
Bury	2	Hereford	0
Chester	2	Chesterfield	1
Colchester	2	Gillingham	0
Halifax	0	Wrexham	1
Mansfield	1	G Palace	1
Millwall	1	Port Vale	0
Preston	0	Crewe	0
Rotherham	1	Sheffield Wed	0
Shrewsbury	2	Cardiff	1
Walsall	4	Aldershot	1

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Brighton	34	21	9	4	60	25	51
Preston	34	21	8	5	62	25	50
G Palace	33	16	13	4	56	34	45
Walsall	34	16	11	7	61	52	43
Cardiff	33	16	10	11	60	37	42
Chester	33	16	10	11	50	39	42
Rotherham	33	16	10	11	50	39	42
Shrewsbury	34	17	8	11	50	42	42
Millwall	33	15	12	10	53	43	42
Peterborough	34	17	7	10	54	53	41
Port Vale	33	15	12	12	44	50	33
Preston	34	15	7	13	46	37	37
Gillingham	33	15	7	11	50	45	37
Chester	34	13	10	12	52	48	36
Bury	33	11	13	11	43	38	35
Colchester	33	11	13	11	35	38	35
Mansfield	33	12	10	11	41	45	34
Aldershot	34	11	12	11	50	62	34
Hereford	33	12	8	13	48	60	32
Brentford	33	11	9	13	37	37	31
Chesterfield	34	12	7	15	50	59	31
Swindon	34	10	9	15	37	53	29
Sheffield Wed	33	7	13	13	33	44	28
Swindon	34	11	6	15	37	46	28
Halifax	33	9	10	16	34	49	28

Fourth division

Bradford	3	Torquay	1
Brentford	0	Crewe	0
Cambridge U	2	Southport	0
Doncaster	0	Exeter	2
Huddersfield	1	Barnsley	0
Newport	1	Hartlepool	1
Northampton	5	Bournemouth	1
Reading	0	Darlington	1
Scunthorpe	2	Lincoln	2
Walford	2	Tranmere	0
Workington	0	Rochdale	0

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Northampton	33	24	7	2	67	22	55
Lincoln	33	16	11	6	48	31	43
Reading	32	19	5	8	55	33	43
Doncaster	33	14	8	11	49	40	36
Huddersfield	33	14	8	11	44	42	36
Exeter	33	15	10	8	44	35	40
Bournemouth	33	18	7	12	67	52	43
Southampton	33	17	7	12	48	40	41
Newport	33	15	10	11	57	43	40
Swansea	32	17	5	15	49	53	39
Walford	33	16	8	14	48	54	38
Torquay	33	12	11	10	48	48	36
Cambridge	33	11	13	11	37	39	35
Rochdale	33	11	13	11	42	45	35
Barnsley	33	11	13	11	34	37	35
Crewe	33	12	10	11	38	37	34
Southport	33	13	8	12	45	42	34
Hartlepool	33	11	9	13	43	49	31
Brentford	33	12	7	14	50	65	31
Newport	33	8	12	13	43	43	30
Bradford	33	10	9	14	37	50	29
Scunthorpe	33	9	12	12	37	44	30
Darlington	33	7	14	12	33	41	28
Southport	33	8	9	16	29	46	25
Workington	33	6	6	21	25	59	18

Scottish premier division

Dundee	0	Celtic	1
Hibernian	0	Dundee U	1
Motherwell	2	Aberdeen	1
Rangers	3	Hearts	2
St Johnstone	1	Ayr	2

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Celtic	27	18	4	5	57	30	40
Rangers	27	17	5	5	46	22	39
Hibernian	27	11	7	9	42	30	29
Motherwell	27	13	3	11	37	34	29
Aberdeen	28	10	7	11	42	30	27
Dundee	28	9	7	12	42	50	25
Hearts	28	8	7	13	27	41	23
Dundee U	26	8	6	12	34	33	22
Ayr	27	9	4	14	33	37	22
St Johnstone	27	2	3	22	23	68	6

SOUTHERN LEAGUE: Premier division: Allerstone 1, Kettering 1; Bath 1, Nuneaton 1; Barton 3, Hillingdon 1; Cambridge 1, Wimbledon 1; Dover 4, Stourbridge 0; Gravesend 0, Telford 0; Maidstone 1, Grantham 3; Margate 2, Cambridge 1; Wealdstone 1, Bedford 1; Wimbledon 3, Romford 0; Yeovil 4, Cambridge City 0. First division (north): Banbury 3, Cheltenham 3; Barry 2, Redditch 3; Bath 1, Corby 1; Bromsgrove 1, Enderby 1; Bury Town 3, Oswestry 0; Gloucester 3, Wellingborough 1; Kidderminster 2, Tamworth 2; Merthyr Tydfil 0, King's Lynn 0; Witney 4, Stevenage 0; Worcester 3, Milton Keynes 1. First division (south): Bexley 1, Basingstoke 1; Bognor 1, Folkestone Shepway 1; Dorchester 1, Canterbury 1; Hastings 3, Waterlooville 2; Maidstone Police 2, Andover 2; Minehead 3, Ashford 0; Ramsgate 0, Gravesley 0; Salisbury 1, Romford 1.

ISTHMIAN LEAGUE: First division: Barking 1, Wycombe Wanderers 2; Dagenham 1, Kingstonian 1; Leatherhead 1, Oxford City 0; Leytonstone 2, Hayes 0. Second division: Carshalton Athletic 3, Harlow Town 0; Chesham United 1, Croydon 1; Corinthian Casuals 2, Hampton 2; Harwich and Parkeston 0, Horsham 1; Maidenhead United 1, Walton and Hersham 1; St Albans City 2, Hornchurch 1; Tilbury 0, Aveley 0; Ware 1, Bromley 1; Wembley 1, Finchley 1; Wokingham Town 1, Boreham Wood 0.

ATHENIAN LEAGUE: First division: Addlestone 0, Edmonton-Hartleys 2; Alton 1, Erith and Belvedere 2; Chesham 3, Egham 0; Lewes 1, Leyton 2; Wingate 2, Marlow 1; Letchworth 3, Hainault 1; Redhill 1, Ruislip Manor 1; Hounslow 0. Second division: Aylesbury 0, Epping 3; Camberley 3, Molesey 3; Eastbourne United 0, Edgware 1; Epsom and Ewell 4, Harefield United 0; Faversham 0, Willesden 1; Hemel Hempstead 3, Feltham 0.

ARTHURIAN LEAGUE: Old Aldenhamians 4, Old Westminsters 1; Old Ardenians 3, Old Carthusians 5; Old Foresters 3, Old Bradfordians 2; Old Malvernians 3, Old Wykehamists 2; Old Reptonians 4, Old Chillingians 3; Old Salopians 3, Old Harrovians 2.

Scottish Spring Cup

Third round

Albion R	1	Arbroath	0
Berwick	2	Alloa	2
Clyde	2	Raith	2
Clydebank	4	Queen of South	0
Dumbarton	1	Hamilton	2
East Fife	2	Brechin	0
Forfar	3	Meadowbank	3
Kilmarnock	0	Falkirk	1
Montrose	3	E Stirling	0
Queen's Park	2	Cowdenbeath	0
St Mirren	1	Partick Th	2
Stenhousemuir	2	Dumbarton	1
Stirling A	0	Morton	1
Stranraer	0	Airdrie	1

NORTHERN PREMIER LEAGUE: Altrincham 2, Lancaster 2; Buxton 2, Wigan Athletic 0; Fleetwood 0, Scarborough 4; Gateshead 2, Runcorn 3; Goole 1, Bangor City 1; Gt Harwood 0, Stafford Rangers 2; Macclesfield 0, Stalybridge 1; Matlock 5, Netherfield 0; Morecambe 0, Mossley 2; Northwich Vic 1, Boston United 2; Worksop 2, South Liverpool 0.

SCHOOLS: Bexley CB 6, Hartford THS 3; Cardinal Vaughan 3, St Joseph's 1; Sondhall 6, Cardinal Wiseman 1; Willaston High 3, Magherafelt (Ireland) 1.

Leading scorers

FIRST DIVISION: 37, A. Gowling (Newcastle United); 25, McGovern (Norwich City); 22, J. Duncan (Tottenham Hotspur), R. Tueart (Manchester City).

SECOND DIVISION: 24, D. Hales (Charlton Athletic); 21, M. Channon (Southampton); 17, L. Bradd (Notts County); 16, P. Chapple (Bristol City).

THIRD DIVISION: 30, R. McNeil (Hereford), A. Buckley (Walsall); 25, F. Binney (Brighton).

FOURTH DIVISION: 30, R. Moore (Tranmere); 25, B. O'Callaghan (Hartlepool Bovers); 23, J. Ward (Lincoln City).

Today's fixtures

Kick-off 7.30 unless stated.

Fourth division

Darlington v Bradford City
Rochdale v Crewe

SOUTHERN LEAGUE: Premier division: Bedford v Kettering; Chelmsford v Alvechurch. First division: North: Kidderminster v Bury Town; Stevenage v Worcester.

NORTHERN PREMIER LEAGUE: Altrincham v Workop; Morecambe v Scarborough.

ISTHMIAN LEAGUE: First division: Dagenham v Enfield.

RUGBY UNION (7.0): Newport v Abertavon; Abertillery v Gloucester.

European results

KIEV: Soviet Union 0, Argentina 1.

AUSTRIAN LEAGUE: Austria Salzburg 1, Admira Wacker 1; Sturm Graz 0, Innsbruck 3; Austria Vienna 5, AK Graz 0; Austria Klagenfurt 0, Voest Linz 0; Rapid Vienna 3, Sk Linz 2.

BELGIAN LEAGUE: FC Malinois 4, Racing Malines 1; RWD Molenbeek 5, Lierse 0; FC Liegeois 0, CS Uruges 0; La Louviere 1, Beveren 1; FC Bruges 5, Ostend 0; Beringen 3, Anderlecht 0; Beerschot 2, Waregem 1; Lokeren 1, Standard Liege 0; Antwerp 1, Charleroi 1.

DUTCH LEAGUE: Feyenoord 4, Go Ahead Eagles 2; FC Amsterdam 1, NEC 1; FC Utrecht 2, MVV 1; AZ 67 3, Eindhoven 0; De Graafschap 1, Fc Twente 1; PSV 6, Telstar 1; Roda JC 0, Sjax 0; Dsc Haga 1, Sparta 0; Excelsior 0, RAC 2.

FRENCH LEAGUE: Nantes 3, St Etienne 0; Sochaux 4, Monaco 0; Valenciennes 3, Metz 0; Lyon 3, Lille 0; Strasbourg 1, Bastia 0; Paris SG 1, Marseille 1; Bordeaux 1, Paris SG 1; Rhims 1, Lens 1; Nancy 3, Reims 1.

HUNGARIAN LEAGUE: Videoton 4, Csepel 0; Ujpest Dosza 3, Tatabanya 3; Bodapest Honved 3, Raba Eto 0; Kaposvar Rakosi 1, Ferencvaros 1; Vasas 2, Zalaegerszeg 1; Haladas VSE 3, Szeged 3; Bekescsaba 1, Diosgyor 0; Mto 3, Salgotarjan 0.

ITALIAN LEAGUE: Cesena 2, Juventus 1; Como 2, Bologna 1; Fiorentina 0, Internazionale 0; Lazio 3, Ascoli 1; AC Milan 1, Napoli 1; Perugia 4, Cagliari 1; Sampdoria 2, Verona 0; Torino 1, Roma 0.

GREEK LEAGUE: Aigaleo 4, Panserraikos 1; Atromitos 0, Olympiakos 1; Yannina 1, Panathinaikos 0; Ethnikos 2, Palaiokastro 1; Iraklis 0, AEK 1; Kastoria 1, Aris 0; Panachaikos 1, Kalamata 0; Pierikos 1, Pax 2.

POLISH LEAGUE: Gks 2, Slask 1; Wisla 2, Lechia 0; Lech 1, Cornik 1; Polonia 1, Lks 1; Zaglebie 0, Ruch 3; Stal H 2, Pogon 0; Ruch 0, Stal Rz 0; Widzew 1, Szombierki 0.

PORTUGUESE LEAGUE: Belenenses 1, Sporting 0; Tomar 1, Setubal 0; Setubal 3, Atletico 0; Guimaraes 3, Estoril 1; Beatica 7, Braga 1; Farense 2, Caf 0; Academico 0, Boavista 1; Porto 4, Beira Mar 0.

SPANISH LEAGUE: Seville 3, Santander 1; Atletico Madrid 3, Oviedo 1; Granada 0, Hercules 0; Barcelona 3, Betis 1; Atletico Bilbao 1, Las Palmas 0; Elche 0, Espanol 1; Gijon 1, Valencia 1; Saragossa 3, Real Madrid 1.

WEST GERMAN LEAGUE: Bayern Munich 4, Borussia Monchengladbach 0; Bertha 1, Kickers Offenbach 0; Eintracht Frankfurt 5, Hanover 1; Eintracht Brunswick 4, Schalke 1; Bochum 2, Kaiserslautern 0; Karlsruhe 1, Fortuna Dusseldorf 0; Rot-Weiss Essen 1, Hamburg 1; Werder Bremen 1, Bayern Uerdingen 0; Duisburg 0, Cologne 4.

Rowing

Oxford look to future as barrier is broken

By Jim Railton

Oxford, below their best, not only beat Cambridge at their worst but also the course record in the 122nd Boat Race on Saturday. Cambridge were either star-struck by their opponents or suffering from stage fright on their stake boat and surrendered within the first minute of the race. Despite this, Cambridge also beat Oxford's 1974 record by 15 seconds, which, in itself, reflects the exceptional conditions.

Oxford became the first crew to break the Tideway's championship course 17 minute barrier and shattered the previous record by 37 seconds. Oxford were in record mood throughout the day, boasting the heaviest crew in the history of the race, the heaviest oarsman, breaking every intermediate record en route and David Feak, their bowman, became the first oarsman to row with a sunhat on in the Boat Race.

Oxford's win completed a grand slam. Half an hour earlier Isis, the Oxford reserves, beat their opponents—Goldie—and also the 1974 record by one second. Earlier in the month the Oxford women won their race for the first time and the Oxford men's lightweights gained their first victory, too, over Cambridge.

Fortunately, Oxford went out to win Saturday's race and not to break the record. Oxford made that mistake in 1957 with their cox programmed to compare their progress in the race relative to the intermedi

SPORT

Rugby Union

England's humiliation could easily have been worse

By Peter West
Rugby Correspondent

All one's worst fears were confirmed in Paris on Saturday as England, taken apart in every phase of forward play, took a thrashing by 30 points to nine. France, with better distribution and handling behind, above all with better judgment as vast areas of space were opened up from loose possession, might easily have become the first side in the championship's history to top the half century mark. The only comfort this side of the water may be felt in Wales, where they can be thankful to have played their French game in Cardiff.

France scored six tries, three of them converted by Romeu (who will be disappointed to have missed the others) to a goal and a penalty goal. On three of their past four visits to Paris, England have conceded a total of 18 tries, and after this latest humiliation they are left with a whitewash for the second time in four seasons and with last place in the championship for the for the fourth time in the last five.

The England coach, Peter Colston, wryly observed: "We have still a long way to go." The chairman of selectors, Alec Lewis, enigmatically declared that he would do "whatever is best for English rugby". The captain, Tony Neary, who worked tirelessly to stem the blue tide, asserted that the French pack was the best and the hardest he had ever faced.

In three championship games this season England's forwards had served their side well, but now they were discomfited in the tight (where Pullin, a late deputy for Wheeler yielded the heads 4—1), outplayed at the lineout after a not unpromising beginning, and almost totally beaten in the loose from first to last. I doubt if France have fielded a stronger, more disciplined front row than Cholley, Paco and Paparemborde. Bastiat's domination of the lineout, wherever he stood, enabled the big locks, Palmie and Imbernon, to concentrate on scrummaging and on turning England in the mauls, and the loose flankers had themselves a ball. Skréla had a magnificent all-round game. Rives, less flamboyant than usual, was always constructive. And Bastiat, for one of his size, covered the field to remarkable effect.

While little Fouroux never had it so good and Romeu, on the end of that astonishingly long service, was given the freedom of the park, Smith's recall to the colours was attended by a constant, harassing pressure and Williams scarcely touched the ball in the first half hour. Smith coped staunchly but ironically—from one of England's better heels—let in Fouroux for a snap try. Williams contributed a first performance of decision and character. Moving out behind a lineout and then thrusting powerfully inside, Williams set up Dixon's burst for England's late try.

On a day when quality ball was scarce, Maxwell overdid the chip or grubber and England's half chances, that try apart, are soon recalled. Two likely interceptions by the wings, both of whom tackled and covered bravely, were foiled first when Bastiat flipped Slemen's ankle and then when Cooke went over from Plummer's forward pass. There might have been another opportunity when Maxwell charged down a kick by Averous and England for once won a ruck. But Williams, with space on the outside, had no support.

Butler's early penalty goal, after a collapsed scrummage, was but a false English dawn and their defence, willing and effective enough at the start, steadily was run off its feet, with Gourdon constantly posing problems as he came in from the blind side wing. The writing was writ plainly enough even before Romeu, from a scrummage, ran flat across his centre to touch down by the flag at the end of a long, curving run without a finger having been laid upon him. Butler, who was made to look rather anonymous at full back, and who later dropped a catch on his own line under no great pressure, looked out of position.

Slemen saves a certain try with a diving tackle on Averous.

Romeu's handsome conversion made it 6—3 and by half time, when Aguirre had been replaced by a new cap, Berges-Can, France scored one further try, through Paparemborde and a drive from a lineout. By then, poor finishing had cost them perhaps three more tries and possibly a fourth when Fouroux opted for a drop shot with an overlap outside him.

In the second half, Romeu made his one serious misjudgment, squandering a huge overlap with an inside pass which was knocked on by Fouroux. But then Fouroux seized the chance that Smith provided. Another overlap—and Averous overran a delayed pass from Gourdoo. Then Bastiat, without convincing England of his proper touchdown, clawed over from a great height on the open side of a scrummage. This try, as well as Fouroux's was converted by Romeu.

Another concerted French drive at a lineout sent the England forwards reeling back over their line, and Cholley was credited with try number five. Finally, after Dixon had scored and France had thrown away yet another chance, from a tapped penalty, Bastiat fed Fouroux from a scrummage and Bertranne with a lovely sway of the hips created space for Gourdon to outflank the defence and run in number six.

It is clearer than ever that there have been two outstanding runners in this year's championship stakes, and even at this distance we can start savouring the prospect of France v Wales in Paris next season.

FRANCE: J. M. Aguirre (Bagnerais) (sub. R. Berges-Can); J. F. Gourdon (Racing), R. Bertranne (Bagnerais), G. Badin (Bziers), J. L. Averous (La Voulte), J.-P. Romeu (Montferrand), J. Fouroux (La Voulte, captain); G. Cholley (Castres), A. Paco (Béziers), R. Paparemborde (Pau), M. Palmie (Bziers), J. F. Imbernon (Perpignan), J.-P. Rives (Stade Toulousain), J.-P. Bastiat (Rac), J.-C. Skréla (Stade Toulousain).

ENGLAND: P. Butler (Gloucester); K. Plummer (Bristol), A. W. Maxwell (Headingley), D. A. Cooke (Harlequins), M. A. Slemen (Liverpool); C. Williams (Gloucester), S. J. Smith (Sale); F. E. Cotton (Sale), P. J. Wheeler (Leicester), M. A. Burton (Gloucester), W. B. Beaumont (Fylde), R. M. Wilkinson (Bedford), P. J. Rixon (Gosforth), G. Adey (Leicester), A. Neary (Broughton Park, captain).

Referee: K. Clarke (Ireland).

	P	W	L	F	A	pts
Wales	4	4	0	102	37	8
France	4	3	1	82	37	6
Scotland	4	2	2	49	59	4
Ireland	4	1	3	31	87	2
England	4	0	4	42	86	0

Day when game was as drab as the weather

From An Irish Rugby Correspondent
Dublin, March 21

The international rugby programme finished here on a subdued note yesterday when, on a grey afternoon of drizzling rain at Lansdowne Road, all the points came from goalkicks. Scotland landed four penalties and added a drop goal to complete their tally of 18 points while Ireland's measure of success was confined to two penalty goals (6).

For the first time this season the ground conditions made handling hazardous and to consequence the play never rose above a mediocre level; it was in fact as drab as the weather.

On not more than two or three occasions throughout the 80 minutes did a try seem even remotely possible to either side so the difference between them lay in the larger number of infringements by Ireland within goal-kicking range. In the first minute the Welsh referee gave ominous indication that he would apply the laws, especially at the lineout, to the ultimate degree. After the ball had been returned to touch from the kickoff to start the match a Scottish forward was penalized for pushing and McGann was OR target with a splendid shot from 44 yards.

It is questionable whether such an immediate and harsh decision is really in the spirit of the game but as the referee started so he continued. Hardly a lineout progressed without either penalty or scrum following and Irvine prospered in consequence. Altogether he had eight shots at goal and as there was no breeze to speak of even his marksmanship was not particularly impressive. Three of his goals were from around 25 to 30 yards close to the posts and the last one from 40 yards but still in front of the target. McGann's second bullseye also was no more than a chip from in front and he was off line with three longer efforts.

Scotland showed a better appreciation of the tactics most suitable to the ground condition. The forwards scrummaged solidly and constantly and provided a more accurate service to the backs. When the ball came out from scrum or ruck it was dispatched downfield by Wilson who passed only when he lacked time or space in which to kick and then the nearest centre maintained the pattern.

If it made for tedious watching, such a policy was common sense for it denied Ireland more than an occasional opportunity of profiting on an error and even the ebullient Irvine curbed his ambition as a counter attack to the needs of the occasions. For once in a way he played an entirely orthodox game and did so to perfection. His fielding was impeccable and his clearances long and accurate so his achievement of reaching 82 points for his country to pass the previous best of 71 by Ken Scotland put the gloss on a worthy performance.

For Ireland it was a day of frustration with all the hopes of a brief revival to crown the Twickenham victory a fortnight previously foundering on the rock of the opposing defence. As far as the forward struggle went they held their own and applied as much pressure in the early and closing stages as did their rivals during the midway period. Even the urging of Deering, who like Orr made some promising breaks from the mauls, could not enable the pack as a unit to break the shackles binding them, and there was too much tardy beeling and careless knocking back from lineout.

Thus the return of Moloney to scrum half did not provide the dividends in the shape of those once-dangerous thrusts around the fringes of the scrums for which there had been hopes. Biggar and Leslie watched him like hawks and Lawson pounced on him frequently to spoil the pass to McGann. Altogether the fear that Moloney's darting rapier had become blunted was sadly confirmed.

Indeed, had it not been for McGann's almost uncanny skill in clearing to touch within inches of the clutching hands of the opposition, Ireland's case would have been even more parlous. When the ball reached the three-quarters they did show more enterprise than the Scottish line but only twice did they contrive an overlap and then Brady dropped the crucial pass. Gibson tried everything possible to inject life into the attacks but it was a lost cause from start to finish. The number of aimless kicks down the middle which were pouched safely by Irvine end returned with interest was a measure of Ireland's present poverty of ideas.

Irvine put Scotland OR level terms in the 20th minute and ahead five minutes later but McGano equalized six minutes from the interval. It was all over virtually within three minutes of the resumption when Irvine struck twice from penalty awards and Wilson's 25 yard drop goal ten minutes later merely made a probability e certainty.

Seven minutes from the end Gibson limped off with e damaged hamstring end was replaced by McKibbin, the eldest son of last season's IRFU president, a former Lions centre and now chairman of the International Board. The son's name will appear in the list of internationals although he did not touch the ball before the final whistle sounded.

IRELANR: L. A. Maloney (Garryowen); T. O. Grace (St Mary's, captain), J. A. Brady (Wanderers), C. M. N. Gibson (NIFC), sub H. McKibbin (Instonians), S. E. F. Blake-Knox (NIFC); B. J. McGann (Cork Constitution), J. J. Maloney (St Mary's); P. A. Orr (Old Wesley), M. Centrell (UCD), P. O'Callaghan (Dolphin), M. L. Keane (Lansdowne), R. F. Hakin (CIYMS), S. M. Keering (Garryowen), W. P. Duggan (Blackrock College), S. A. McKinley (Dungannon).

SCOTLANR: A. R. Irvine (Heriot's FP); W. C. C. Steele (London Scottish), A. G. Cranston (Hawick), I. R. McGeechan (Headingley), R. Shedden (West of Scotland); R. Wilson (London Scottish), J. M. Lawson (London Scottish); J. McLauchlan (Jordanhill, captain), C. D. Fisher (Waverley), A. B. Carmichael (West of Scotland), A. J. Tomes (Hawick), G. L. Brown (West of Scotland), M. A. Biggar (London Scottish), A. F. McHarg (London Scottish), D. G. Leslie (West of Scotland).

Referee: M. S. Lewis (Wales).

Wasps defence is shaken off like a boot

By Peter Evans

Saracens 13 Wasps 6

Saracens deservedly beat Wasps in the Middlesex County Cup final yesterday after two crushing first half tries. They were decisive not only in providing an early lead that Wasps could not reach, but also in the demoralizing panache with which they were engineered.

The scorer of both was Henson, the Saracens left wing, in each case after a spete of handling that tore holes in the Wasps defence. Even so, Rayner should have prevented Hanson from scoring one of them but his low tackle was shaken off like e Wellington boot. Phillips, who had twice failed to kick penalties well within his range, curled the ball between the posts to convert the first try.

The second, like the first, came from a burst in the centre. Sanders broke through after Player, a marauding forward, had taken the ball on from his scrum half, Dowling. Immediately afterwards Saracens almost scored again when Phillips, their stand-off half, skipped right end then left of groping tackles and once more began a series of passes towards their left wing.

This time, however, the Wasps defence held, as it did for the rest of the match. The only other scores were penalties, two for Wasps by Rayner and another for Saracens by Phillips, whose versatility and swift judgment at stand-off provided part of the reason for his side's superiority.

Wasps never knew whether be would grub kick, kick for touch, or, more often than most stand-off halves these days, feed his centres. His kicking for touch constantly drove Wasps back into vulnerable positions. Although Wasps had much of the ball and territorially were not badly off, they lacked someone as penetrating behind the pack.

Their second half improvement, not only in covering but also in the amount of good ball the forwards provided, led only to stalemate however. Saracens were as good at resisting pressure as they were at attacking early on. Both sides deserve credit for a lively match with each prepared to run out of defence even in their own 25.

The only pity was the number of petty infringements in the front row of the scrum and careless offsides. Three or four times penalties awarded against Wasps when they were in good attacking positions helped to tip the match against them.

WASPS: C. Richards; I. Bell, N. French, A. Rayner, D. Gardiner; D. Warby, M. Connor; A. Isichei, G. Bignell, P. Rendall, A. Black (captain), M. Rickett, R. Smith, M. Leggett, A. Dray.

SARACENS: A. Smith; P. Cadle, J. Vinter, D. Sanders, C. Hanson; M. Phillips, B. Dowling; R. Fairclough, J. Lockwood, A. McGregor, R. Hill, A. Jacaszk, M. Williams (captain), E. Riddle, M. L. Player.

Referee: A. J. Trigg (London Society).

Japan put their qualities to the best use

By Tom Cooban

The North-East Counties 19-Group team beat the touring Japanese Schools team by a goal and e try (10 pts) to two tries (8) at Otley, on Saturday, in a game as closely fought as the score indicates.

On the evidence, Japan have a promising future at international level. Their style of play was stamped by so many national characteristics — determination, dedicaRoo, resiliance, and, above all, a prodigious work-rate. Lack of height and weight they partially compensated for by tactical skill. Often they chose to have a two-man lineout, using their only two six-footers, and in the scrummages, when their half back was feeding, their ability to wheel slightly toward him gave an advantage in possession which seldom incurred a penalty for the ball not being put in straight.

Long-and-fast passing was the best feature of their attack, coupled with quickness of recovery when the counties' defence overcame them. Their own defence was as staunch as expected. Little wonder that e good crowd, highly appreciative of their skills, gave MiyaKee, the right wing, a great ovaRon when, in extra time, he scored the try which if converted would have drawn the match.

The Japanese were at their best in the second half. It was then that Ishida, the left centre, scored their other try. Often passing was from one wing to the other, with the half backs the initiators and Kikuchi, the full back, powerful in support.

All credit to the counties that they overcame such strong opponents. Though less effective in scrummages and lineouts than expected, the forwards played well in the loose. Houston, a flank forward, scored both tries and Tipping and Macaulay were two others who were always at the heart of the action. Walker broke strongly from the scrummage and gave good passes, and though the centre threequarters' tackling was occasionally vulnerable, the whole line combined in exciting attacks. Murphy, the left wing, beautifully balanced in his long-striding run, was particularly attractive to watch. Green had a good game at full back and converted Houston's first try.

NORTH-EAST COUNTIES: C. C. Cross (KES, Morpeth); G. Braithwaite (Durham School), T. Theakston (Ashville College), A. M. Laycock (St Michael's College), A. Murphy (St Cuthbert's, Newcastle); R. W. Ward (Gateshead CS), N. S. Walker (Bradford G2); A. Jackson (Leeds CS), L. Hudson (Bradford GS), N. R. Richard (Rymer's College), K. R. Macphee (QEGS, Wakefield), P. M. Lillington (Pelles School), I. Furlong (Sir Leo Scouller School), A. N. Houston (Sedbergh), S. R. Tipping (Otley GS).

JAPAN: K. Kikuchi; H. Miyake, F. Kanayo, Y. Ishida, E. Tanii; R. Iwarama, Y. Konishi; K. Watanabe, A. Wada, K. Kimura, M. Michimura, K. Segawa, T. Obara, H. Takahashi, R. Inoue.

Referee: M. Walker (Yorkshire Society).

Bedford surface from their reservoir

By Richard Streeton

Bedford 36 British Columbia 10

British Columbia's main rugby attributes, a willingness to run and pass imaginatively, were nullified by efficient covering and tackling in an entertaining game yesterday at Goldington Road, Bedford; at times, had to dig deep from the reservoir of greater experience and discipline.

The final margin of a goal, two penalty goals and six tries against two penalties and a try was undoubtedly a shade harsh for the Canadians. They return home tomorrow to continue their preparation for the visit of the Barbarians to Canada in June having beaten Bridgend and lost to Llanelli, e Merseyside XV, Middlesex and Bedford.

Twice in the first half British Columbia were in the lead and Bedford's 14—10 advantage at half time included two gift tries. Once a poor clearance on the British Columbia line allowed Wyatt 2 simple run-in and later, Towersey, the scorer, slowed down and waited to be recalled for a forward pass but the offence went unnoticed.

Soon after the interval Bedford, playing down the slope, scored three tries in 12 minutes, Towersey claiming one of them from a 70-yard run after an interception. In the closing stages, British Columbia clearly ran out of stamina and Keen scored two tries for Bedford in the final five minutes after multiple handling movements.

In between the Canadians, physically large and with zest often atoning for lack of finesse, showed some neat attacking touches. Bedford at one stage in the second half barely left their own 25 for 20 minutes but the Canadians could not surmount the final hurdle.

Bedford's back row always tidied up splendidly; Howard and Jorden were rarely caught out of position in defence and all through it was timely to see Bennett relaxed and obviously enjoying his rugby again.

British Columbia held their own at the lineouts, where Wilkinson, freshly back from Paris, was understandably below his best. Eburne and Hindson created some opportunities for Billingsley to show his deceptive pace and creativeness; Legh was an elusive runner whenever he came into the line and Barber, too, showed moments of flair in attack.

McTavish on the left wing did not get many opportunities, but be and Billingsley combined well in provide Simmons with the chance to score British Columbia's only try. Harivel kicked their two penalties. Bedford's tries came from Wyatt (2), Towersey (2), Keen (2) and Glover. Bennett kicked two penalties and e conversion.

BEDFORD: A. M. Jorden; A. Towersey, A. Glover, J. Howard (captain), R. M. Wyatt; N. M. Bennett, P. Evans; C. Sallward, M. Barker, B. Keen, C. Hooker, R. Willinson, P. Edwards, R. Jackson, R. Slaughter.

BRITISH COLUMBIA: B. Legh; R. Greig, P. Simmons, S. Barber, S. McTavish; J. Billingsley, D. Quigley; G. Zinkea, W. Hartree, Lefaive, B. Eburne, R. Hindson, A. Scott, G. Johnston (captain), K. Wilke.

Referee: P. L. Limington (London).

Rugby Union results

International matches

Ireland	6	Scotland	15
France	30	England	9

Club matches

Birkenhead P	18	Harrogate	9
Blackheath	26	London Scottish	11
Bridgwater & A	46	Old Whitgiftians	4
Bristol	45	Plymouth Albion	3
Broughton Park	12	Hull and ER	3
Camborne	20	Lydney	16
Cheltenham	15	Clifton	21
Coventry	16	Harlequins	33
Cross Keys	15	Saracens	7
Ravenspurt	9	Manchester	18
Edinburgh W	10	Edinburgh A	12
Gala	26	Fylde	0
Glasgow High	12	Merist's FP	3
Gosforth	20	Harlepool R	17
Guy's Hospital	4	Gloucester	52
Halifax	20	Orrell	13
Hawick	47	Edinburgh U	12
Jordanhill	18	Jedforest	9
Liverpool	10	Headingley	15
Llanelli	37	Bridgend	10
Metro Police	2	Oxford	0
Morley	10	Coventry	12
Newbridge	21	Nuneaton	12
Newton Abbot	13	Penryn	14
Northern	26	Esher	6
Nottingham	18	Abertillery	23
Oldham	8	Wolverhampton	3
OMT	7	Sidcup	40
Penarth	12	Pontypool	17
Penzance & N	12	Torquay Ath	3
Preston Grass	15	Sheffield	23
Richmond	12	Moseley	23
Roundhay	12	Wakefield	19
St Luke's Col	8	Weston-s-Mare	3
Sale	22	Northampton	9
Saracens	13	Loughborough C	7
S Wales Police	16	Glamorgan W	13
Stroud	10	Birmingham	21
Taunton	15	Redruth	15
Vale of Lune	18	Huddersfield	13
Wasps	29	US Portsmouth	3
Waterloo	10	Wilmslow	7
W Hartlepool	12	Glasgow Acads	3

Yesterday

Tour match

Italian XV	16	Cardiff	36

John Player Cup, preliminary round

Salisbury	7	Marlow	6

Club matches

Bedford	36	British Colum	10
Ebbw Vale	13	Pontypridd	12
London Irish	44	Nuneaton	0
Old Wimbledonians	19	Richmond	13
Wasps	6	Saracens	13

Rugby League

FIRST DIVISION: Leeds 13, Castleford 18.

Yesterday

FIRST DIVISION: Featherstone R21 Salford 6; Hull KR 28, Huddersfield 24.

SECOND DIVISION: Batley 4, Barrow 16; Halifax 9, York 11; Huyton 6, Workington T 18 (abandoned after 60 mins, heavy rain); New Bunsley 10 Leigh 17.

Racing

Continuing rivalry of two champions

By Michael Phillips
Racing Correspondent

Another season of flat racing begins at Doncaster on Friday. And with its arrival racing as a whole takes on a new and fresh dimension which many will find exhilarating after the winter. If asked to suggest the probable highlight in the next two months I would say without hesitation the intended clash of the giants in the 2,000 Guineas at Newmarket on April 28, because, if everything goes according to plan, the field will include Manado, Wollow and Malinowski, the three colts who headed the French, English and Irish Free Handicaps after last season. I remember being excited by the prospect of seeing Brigadier Gerard, Mill Reef and My Swallow clash in the 2,000 Guineas in 1971. They were admittedly all trained in England so there was not the element of rivalry between different countries. But there was fierce rivalry all the same because all three had already achieved so much. Without going so far as to say that any of this present bunch are the equal of Brigadier Gerard and Mill Reef I do believe that in six weeks' time the prospect of seeing Manado, Wollow and Malinowski at loggerheads will be riveting.

Talking of Brigadier Gerard and Mill Reef, they too will be playing an ective role in keeping interest alive during the coming months because they will have runners for the first time this season. It is always fascinating to see how young stallions fare partly because their own achievements on the course are still relatively fresh in the mind. Brigadier Gerard and Mill Reef were both foaled in the same year and they both excelled on the racecourse. Yet they met only once.

It was intended that they should cross swords again as four-year-olds in the Eclipse Stakes. In the spring of the year in question the Eclipse was being billed as the race of the century but sadly it came to nothing because Mill Reef was overcome by sickness after he had won the Coronation Cup and was unable to take part. Later in the season that injury to his near foreleg, which ended his racing career, stopped him from taking Brigadier Gerard OR again in the Champion Stakes, which was, as it turned out to be, the scene of the Brigadier's triumphant exit from racing.

Brigadier Gerard WOR the 2,000 Guineas and 16 of his other 17 races; Mill Reef, the Derby and the Prix de l'Arc de Triomphe. Now they stand on neighbouring studs in Newmarket. Last autumn Mill Reef scored a point off his old rival when those of his yearlings that were sold at public auction commanded Rot only much more attention but far higher prices than did those of Brigadier Gerard, but prices are not the be all and end all in racing. It is deeds that count and that is why those members of the first crops of the two great horses will be watched so carefully this year.

Yesterday Ladbroke's opened their ante-post book on the outcome of the jockeys' championship. Their prices are 7-4 on Eddery, 4-1 Carson, 6-1 Piggott and 8-1 Hide. Piggott was champion first in 1960 and then again every year from 1964 to 1971. Nowadays his thoughts are not really on the championship. As a freelance rider with no contracts to tie him down he prefers to seek gold and that invariably means travelling either to Ireland to ride for Vincent O'Brien or to France where the prize money is so lucrative. His riding still has the ring of a champion though.

It was the irrepressible little Scot, Carson, who finally ended Piggott's run of being champion in 1972. Carson held the title for two years until Eddery, borne on by the success generated by Peter Walwyn at Seven Barrows on the outskirts of Lambourn, deprived him of it in 1974. As Walwyn's first jockey Eddery remained at the top of the tree again last year, as did his employer, who has now been the champion trainer for the past two seasons. Last year Walwyn won 121 races in this country and four abroad and prize money galore. Another Grundy may be too much to hope for, but with a stable full of 105 horses, many of them princely bred, Walwyn should be able to give his talented young jockey a powerful push towards his third title.

Hide has never been champion, bot be has always been knocking at the door and this year he will be riding a lot for Barry Hills who has 104 horses st Lambourn. Carson will also ride for Hills from time to time, bnt not as often as in the past because Clive Brittain, who has a string of 81 at Newmarket, has first claim on him.

Ryan Price and John Dunlop are the only other trainers in this country with 100 flat horses in their yard and their jockeys are Brian Taylor and Ron Hutchinson respectively. Taylor, who is as effective as anyone, got his opportunity because Tony Murray, his predecessor at Findon, opted for France instead where he will ride primarily for Charles Milbank. Together Murray and Milbank have formed a particularly successful alliance at Cagnes-sur-Mer these past two months.

At the age of 41 Joe Mercer neither cares nor worries about the jockeys' championship. Still, with his two main sources, West Ilsley and Kingsclere, both brimful of talent again, I shall be more than mildly surprised if this stylish, rhythmic horseman does not have another good season.

It is an important year for Alan Bond as well. Like Eddery he has been given a heavent-sent opportunity at any early stage. Eddery was only young when Walwyn took him on. Bond is a fledgling, too, yet this year he is Henry Cecil's first jockey. Admittedly he is unlikely to be asked to ride the likes of Wollow and Take Your Place, because their Italian owner will bring Gianfranco Dettori over from Italy to ride them as he did last year, and Piggott will have the pick of those horses that Charles St George has in the yard. Nevertheless Bond still has an ideal platform from which to launch himself.

One of the joys of flat racing is seeing top-class three-year-olds take on older horses at weight-for-age, a point that that unforgettable race between Grundy and Bustino drummed home at Ascot last July. This year there is a healthy smattering of good older horses in training who should keep the younger generation on their toes and help to provide us with the standards end the guidelines by which we can judge the breed.

Bruni, the runaway winner of last year's St Leger; Sea Anchor; Anne's Pretender; Orange Bay and Laomedonte, respectively the winners of the Italian Derby and the Italian St Leger; the Champion Stakes winner, Rose Bowl, and her stable companion, Libra's Rib; Patch; Roussalka and those two other good fillies, Duboff and May Hill, they are all still with us and they should all help to make races over 10 and 12 furlongs competitive.

The mention of Bruni's name prompts me to ask how many would have thought at this stage 2 year ago that our five classics would have been won by Bolkonski, Nocturnal Spree, Grundy, Juliette Marny and Bruni. Few, if any. Only Grundy was well known and even he was thought more likely to win the 2,000 Guineas than the Derby. Bolkonski and Nocturnal Spree were known only in Italy and Ireland, and Juliette Marny and Bruni were unheard of except within the walls of Beckhampton and Findon. Thinking of their successes provokes e thought that should spread caution if not exactly fear in the camps loyal to Manado, Wollow and company and that surely is one of the delights of flat racing.

The Lincoln Handicap, which will be run at Doncaster on Saturday, is as usual the first big race of the season. There has been plenty of skirmishing between the punters and layers aeto-post, in spite of the fact that the draw at the start invariably plays a big part in the destiny of the prize at Doncaster when there is a big field, just as it did when the race was run at Lincoln. The Lincoln still eludes Piggott, but granted a good draw I expect him to win it or go close to doing so this time on Golden Aim, who was good enough in the spring of last year to run really well in both the Thirsk Classic Trial and the Irish 2,000 Guineas. It seems that he could be a spring horse.

Yesterday our Newmarket Correspondent told me that he had seen Golden Aim moving beautifully recently and that Peter Robinson's four-year-old certainly looks the part. He reminded me that Robinson knows pretty well what is needed to win the race, having won it as a jockey on Marshal Pil, Mighty Gurkha and Ben Novus and again as a trainer with Sovereign Bill. He also says that Quizair, who won the race for Ryan Jarvis two years ago, is also in excellent fettle and working well.

Yesterday Ladbroke's reported money for Barooet, another Newmarket candidate who has caught his eye. Baronet was backed down to 25-1 from 40-1, Ladbroke's are now going 15-2 Golden Aim, 12-1 Galiaro, 14-1 Bell Tent, 25-1 Baronet.

STATE OF GOING (official): Folkestone: Good to firm. Wolverhampton: Good (hurdles course), good to firm (steeplechase course). Plumpton (tomorrow): Soft (hurdles course), and to soft (steeplechase course). Sedgefield (tomorrow): Good to firm. Nottingham (tomorrow): Good to firm.

Wolverhampton programme

2.0 STANDEFORD HURDLE (Div 1: Novices: 5-y-o: £408: 2m 7f)

1 143221 Autumn Rain (S. Marsh), A. Dickinson, 11-7 .... M. Dickinson
2 4-00418 Ask For Roger (J. Kendrick), A. Jarvis, 11-0 ..... P. Blacker
3 001020 Heighway (C) (D. Stanton), M. Tate, 11-0 ..... B. Evans
6 1200 Sanskrit (D. Lawton), J. Edwards, 11-0 ..... B. Brogan
9 0-00320 Were Go Lightly (Miss B. Sykes), S. Holland, 10-7 S. Holland
10 040300 *Foreign Legion (C. James), James, 10-7 ..... —
11 0002 Priyono (C. Loader), P. Buckley, 10-7 ..... T. Stack
14 302 Justaminute (P. Waddoon), C. Richards, 10-7 ..... J. J. O'Neill
16 0000 La Gingold (E. Courage), Courage, 10-7 .... Mr S. Morshead
18 Lizandor (G. Pike), Pike, 10-7 ..... Mr K. Bailey
20 000 Roley Hill (Lord Vestey), D. Nicholson, 10-7 ..... J. King
22 00-00 Sugar Pam (F. Mullen), D. Barons, 10-7 ..... S. May
22 00320 Weeny Bopper (Miss M. Argyle), J. Webber, 10-7 .. A. Webber

11-4 Autumn Rain, 3-1 Justaminute, 9-2 Ask For Roger, 7-1 Priyono, 10-1 Weeny Bopper, 12-1 Heighway, Sanskrit, 14-1 Flora Go Lightly, 16-1 others.

2.30 MARCH STEEPLECHASE (Novices: Handicap: £544: 2½m)

2 220113 Headmaster (D) (R. Barrett), R. Barons, 9-11-6 .... S. May
3 2p1133 Winter Chimes (C) (J. Bowness), J. Hardy, 7-11-3 V. Percival
4 0-0021 Another Venture (C. Owens), J. Edwards, 6-11-3 .... B. Brogan
6 013132 Co-Partner (C) (W. Jenks), Jenks, 7-11-1 ..... R. F. Davies
7 304121 Ballygarvan Brook (R. Brookes), E. Jones, 8-11-1 L. Walkinton
8 203-310 Trump Card (Lord Leverhulme), G. Owen, 7-11-0 D. Cartwright
10 f Kings Pasimo (F. Vaughan), W. Fisher, 10-10-7 .. N. Wakley
11 000022 Kilboy (N. Buller), F. Rimell, 5-10-7 ..... K. B. White
13 0-21040 Set Point (Lavinia Duchess of Norfolk), Lady Herries, 9-10-7 D. Munro
14 2ppf03 Yeg (R. Brassey), Brassey, 8-10-7 ..... J. Suthern
15 8-40ut Montanelle (R. Bliss), S. Mellor, 6-10-7 ..... Mr C. Bliss 7
16 02343 *Flower Child (J. Burridge), J. Janes, 9-10-7 ..... —
17 443302 *The Snipe (G. Richmond-Watson), J. Webber, 6-10-7 A. Webber

5-2 Ballygarvan Brook, 3-1 Co-Partner, 9-2 Another Venture, 13-2 Headmaster, 9-1 Set Point, 10-1 Kilboy, 14-1 others.

3.0 WILLENHALL HURDLE (Handicap: £544: 2½m)

1 0111-02 L'Algion (J. Galbraith), G. Richards, 7-12-1 .... J. J. O'Neill
5 42f000 Emma J (B. Simpson), W. Whiston, 8-11-1 ..... R. F. Davies
8 114-043 Wrongly Down (Col) (H. Lee), R. Edwards, 5-10-12 T. Stack
10 10-0000 Olamorny (CD) (S. Jarrett), F. Rimell, 6-10-11 ..... J. Burke
11 13-p23 Waltz (Mrs C. Marler), S. Mellor, 9-10-11 ..... J. Glover
12 2-0f00 Yachtsman (A. Perry), Perry, 6-10-9 ..... B. Brogan
15 400004 Alry Fairy (C. Allen), D. O'Neill, 8-10-7 ..... —
16 404000 Pride of Olly (N. Renshaw), B. McMahon, 7-10-5 .. R. R. Evans
19 4-00 Power Play (Mrs L. Miller), W. Fisher, 11-10-3 .... N. Wakley
22 bc0000 Cay Cay (Mrs E. Wharton), M. Scudamore, 7-10-0 P. Duggins 9
24 p0-3134 Bishop's Creek (R. Horton), D. Gandolfo, 5-10-0 .. P. Barton
26 4p-u000 Hill Leys (B. Allen), J. Webber, 7-10-0 ..... A. Webber
27 0-04f02 Vale Mist (R. Burchell), W. Burchell, 6-10-0 .... J. Williams
28 000 Valentyr (F. Harris), K. Bailey, 4-10-0 ..... R. Sunderland
29 Moss Prince (P. Bomford), Bomford, 8-10-0 ..... R. Cartwright
30 0p0000 Ray of Light (R. Moore), P. Bevan, 7-10-0 ..... R. Weaver

5-2 L'Algion, 7-2 Waltz, 4-1 Wrongly Down, 11-2 Emma J, 8-1 Alry Fairy, 10-1 Vale Mist, 15-1 others.

3.30 STANDEFORD HURDLE (Div II: Novices: 5-y-o: £408: 2m 7f)

2 30-0p01 Chameleon (Mrs D. Hughes), V. Cross, 11-0 ..... J. King
3 0w-1 Cay Spartan (M. Armstrong), A. Rickinson, 11-0 .. N. Rickinson
6 000022 Buck's Fizz (Mrs R. Nicholson), R. Nicholson, 10-7 J. Suthern
9 304422 Donnison (R. Collins), M. Tate, 10-7 ..... R. R. Evans
10 0pp Roshin Trace (B. Thornley), Thornley, 10-7 ..... K. Gray
13 23-043 Helsdor (C. Johnson), J. Edwards, 10-7 ..... T. Stack
14 000 Not Guilty (B. Cambidge), Cambidge, 10-7 .... Mr O. Jones
17 000 Bik City (W. Wildman), Wildman, 10-7 ..... Mr N. Ruerden 7

6-4 Cay Spartan, 11-4 Chameleon, 5-1 Helsdor, 6-1 Buck's Fizz, 12-1 Donnison, 14-1 others.

4.0 DUDLEY STEEPLECHASE (Handicap: £569: 2m)

1 2400u2 Ireland's Owen (D) (Mrs R. Horrocks), J. Edwards, 7-11-7 B. Brogan
2 1112u2 Chosen Slave (D) (T. Ellwood), A. Kemp, 9-11-6 .. V. Percival
3 02-2224 Master Eye (D) (M. Cooling), F. Cundell, 13-11-6 M. O'Halloran 6

5-4 Ireland's Owen, 13-8 Chosen Slave, 100-30 Master Eye.

4.30 STRETTON STEEPLECHASE (Novice Hunters: £272: 3m)

3 Border Zanting (Miss M. Sherrington), Miss Sherrington, 7-12-0 —
4 4 Callie (Mrs J. Brookes), Mrs Brookes, 8-12-0 ..... Mrs N. Lay 7
5 f0040-2 Count Varano (F. Cullinan), Dilman, 7-12-0 .. Mr C. Saunders
6 Ever Vegas (K. Aston), Aston, 7-12-0 ..... —
7 3pf0-pp Forest of Wychwood (Mrs D. Barnett), Mrs Barnett, 7-12-0 Mr C. Barnett 7
8 Nicrop II (J. Edwards), Edwards, 7-12-0 .... Mr C. Crozier 7
9 2 Highland Moss (B. Green), Green, 8-12-0 .... Mr H. Wacker 7
11 0 La Tanga (Mrs J. Wheeler-Edmunds), Mrs W-Edmunds, 7-12-0 Mr A. Edmunds 7
12 p0-pwb Little Chet (Mrs C. Tutchings), C. Tutchings, 8-12-0 Mr R. Hanks 7
14 Mickley Bell Moss (Mrs C. Brookshaw), Mrs Brookshaw, 7-12-0 Mr P. Brookshaw 7
16 43-pp02 Poynton Park (C. Talano), Talano, 6-12-0 .... Mr P. Talano 7
20 p- Tripleton Honey (A. Lloyd), Lloyd, 8-12-0 .... Mr A. Lloyd 7
21 2- Water Sport (Miss S. Harris), Mrs Harris, 7-12-0 Mr J. Sharp 7
22 0p Young Tam (E. Knight), Mrs Wyman, 8-12-0 .... Mr S. Smart 6

9-4 Count Varano, 3-1 Highland Moss, 9-2 Callie, 6-1 Poynton Park, 8-1 Water Sport, 12-1 others.

Folkestone programme

1.45 HASTINGS STEEPLECHASE (Novices: £569: 2m 3f)

1 032104f Banlieu (J. Morley), D. Morley, 6-12-2 ..... A. R. Davies
5 11

SPORT

The moment of victory . . . A jubilant Stracey watches as the referee, Harry Gibbs, helps the wobbling Lewis back to his corner.

Stracey's next defence could draw a full house at Loftus Road

By Neil Allen
Boxing Correspondent

John Stracey's next defence of the world welterweight title could be in June, open air, at Queen's Park Rangers' football ground, before his fellow Cockneys, and a huge television satellite audience in the United States.

That was the hard news at yesterday's press conference following Stracey's tenth-round victory at Wembley over the American challenger, Hegemon Lewis, who has now, at 30, decided to retire from boxing after a fourth defeat inside the distance, which left him, even yesterday morning, still seeming slightly concussed.

Mickey Duff, the Wembley match-maker, who is entitled to feel proud about both the excitement generated by the Stracey-Lewis bout and the fact that he did not get Britain's world champion beaten, has already had tentative talks with the QPR chairman, Jim Gregory, about using the West London football ground for a world title contest.

Mr Duff took a gamble in staging the welterweight championship on a Saturday, being prepared to have Wembley's Empire Stadium only two-thirds full so that he could sell the bout to the American Broadcasting Company for international television exposure of Stracey. He estimates that an audience of 150 million watched the bout in the United States, Canada, Venezuela, The Netherlands and Austria, and expects that there will now be moves by mid-week American television sports programmes to show Stracey's next defence of the world title.

If Loftus Road is used, then the capacity, including seating on the pitch, could amount to 30,000 with prices, thanks to the boost from American television, says Mr Duff, being as low as from £1.50 or £2 up to £12.50 or £15 ringside. Boxing at home, apart from severe taxation, would suit Stracey because he is full of Cockney pride. Even his financial burden could be eased if a plan by Denis Howell, Minister for Sport, to spread the taxation of sportsmen, comes to fruition.

Stracey's next opposition could come from Clyde Gray, of Canada, the Americans Armando Muniz, or Harold Weston, the Mexican, Carlos Palomino, or the Japanese Ryu Sorimachi. There seems little chance that Stracey, recognized by the World Boxing Council as champion, will meet the World Boxing Association's welterweight title holder, Angel Espada, of Puerto Rico, because Stracey's manager, Terry Lawless, says he would expect Stracey to get the champion's end of the purse.

I have no wish to devalue Stracey's relentless performance on Saturday but be is on top of a division which, at the moment, is not exactly bursting with talent. A threat on the horizon could be the new light-welterweight (10st) champion, Wilfredo Benitez, who is only 17, but then Benitez has been boxing under the aegis of the World Boxing Association and may also take another 18 months before he grows up to the 10st 7lb welterweight limit. Stracey, says Lewis's trainer, Eddie Futch, could be around as champion for a few years yet though Stracey himself may retire by the end of 1977.

Few men know boxing better than Mr Futch. He summed up Saturday's bout like this. "We felt Hedgemon should open fast because we knew Stracey was a slow starter. The plan was for quick combinations and set him up for good shots. But Stracey kept coming and there was never room for Hedgemon to take that quarter step and land counters. Stracey came over Hedgemon's left hand, kept on top, all-action, and put in some solid left hands to the belly. Hedgemon could never get an edge. Now I'm advising him to retire and help me in training young fighters."

Yesterday Stracey told me: "I'd read about the night José Torres challenged Willie Pastrano for the light-heavy title and sang the Puerto Rican national anthem out loud at him. I did the same kind of thing. Hedgemon was saying: 'You're mine, baby' as he danced round the ring before the bell but when we came together I said to him 'Now it's for real' and I saw in his eyes he knew what I meant. Then I got through the pressure of the first round—I'll always be a slow starter—and took his left hand away from him like Torres did with Pastrano. But what a nice bloke, what a dignified loser that Hedgemon is. If it ever happens to me that's how I'd like to go."

Like the referee, Harry Gibbs, who rescued Lewis after 1min 25sec of the tenth round when the American's knees became unhinged, I gave the challenger only one round. That was the first though I also scored the second, fourth and fifth even. From then on Stracey's long armed attacks to the head and body became inexorable with Lewis wobbling three times in the ninth as his defence came apart like an unravelling ball of wool.

A fast, throbbing pace from the start—almost like the frantic flurries of an amateur three-rounder, as someone said. Though Stracey was sometimes disturbingly open to right hands, even though his corner knew that Lewis was not a thunderous puncher. But Mr Duff, the third hero of the evening, cheerfully disagrees. "John takes a lot of shots by blocking. The only problem is, he could end up with cauliflower arms."

WELTERWEIGHT (8st rounds): Johnny Famham (Crawley) beat Barton McAllerer (Clapham), on points (eight rounds); Des Morrison (Bedford) beat Kenny Webber (Manchester), eighth round. Light-middleweight (eight rounds): Maurice Hope (Hackney) beat Kevin White (Wales), fourth round. Bantamweight (eight rounds): Paddy Maguire (Belfast) beat José del Rio (Mexico), on points. Light-welterweight (eight rounds): David Green (Chatteris) beat Giuseppe Minotti (Italy), fourth round.

Golf

Margin of Cambridge's victory the only question

By Peter Ryde
Golf Correspondent

The writing, pointing to a Cambridge victory, appeared on the wall so early in the University golf match at Woodhall Spa that the issue never became a question of whether, but simply of by how much. Four massive victories by Cambridge in the singles supplied by Barclay, Pentecost, Lucas and, to a lesser extent, Travers added to the equally convincing four in the foursomes, gave them victory at a stage when they were leading by eight matches to one, or, to rub in the point of their superiority, by 49 holes up against Oxford's seven.

That may be unnecessarily severe on Oxford, who fought gamely and at least had the consolation of "winning the byo". In the six remaining singles after the result was decided, Scott of Oxford was victorious, having never lost his grip after winning five of the first six holes. Mason and Noble also won after being down and Tate and Booth halved.

The overall result was 9—4 to Cambridge with two halved. The Oxford captain, Mason, had a personal triumph, turning the tables on his opposite number, Cross, after trailing for most of the first 27 holes. With birdies at the 27th and 28th, he gained the lead for the first time and thereafter the psychological advantage of having won four out of five points in past university matches must have helped him.

Odd things happen to captains in university golf. In the past 20 years, three captains have been beaten by double figure margins, another by 8 and 7 and P. Moody, one of the best university golfers of his generation, never won a single in his three years. Cross can find much to console him for his loss of form on the day but the satisfaction of his team's resounding victory may have been enough for him anyway.

A fresh breeze not on the heath added to the difficulties and a large number of holes were won and lost. Noble, next year's Oxford captain, was two down at lunch to Weight and three down at the 24th but won the next five holes, including three pars and a birdie. Piper, raised to second place one suspects as a sacrifice, took his match against Stracey to the last green after being five down with nine to play. Another Oxford player who would not give up was Booth who won the last two holes against Warman to birdies to snatch a half, having at one time been five down.

Armitage, an Oxford freshman, put up a good fight against Travers, perhaps the best in his team on the day, but, after reducing the gap to two down by winning the last three holes before the afternoon turn, he lost the next three. The wind hereabouts made those excellent holes difficult, but on the whole the break with tradition in taking the match away from the seaside was justified, not only by the suitability of Woodhall Spa but also by the excellence of the arrangements made by the club on and off the course.

SINGLES. (Cambridge names first): J. J. Cross (Stanford, Gillingham and Christ Church) lost to D. L. Mason (Millfield and Jesus), 3 and 2; A. P. Stracey (Whitgift and Fitzwilliam) beat J. F. B. Piper (Tonbridge and Keble), 2 holes; C. E. Travers (Wimbledon College and Pembroke) beat J. Armitage (Gillingham and Christ Church), 4 and 3; W. R. Barclay (Bradford GS and St John's) beat J. M. Powell (Ampleforth and Jesus), 8 and 7; G. J. Weight (Reigate CS and Jesus) lost to R. P. Noble (Geneva Rixon GS and Queen's), 1 hole; C. G. Nevill (Sherborne and Gonville and Caius) halved with D. R. Tate (Stockwell and Jesus); J. M. T. Warman (Harrow and Selwyn) halved with K. W. Booth (Kent College and Pembroke); D. G. Lucas (Kirton and Pembroke) beat H. C. P. Seddon (Kimbolton and Oriel), 5 and 6; P. R. Pentecost (Oundle and Pembroke) beat S. C. G. Murphy (Ampleforth and Lincoln), 19 and 8; R. F. Palmer (Stamford and St John's) lost to T. M. Scott (Russell and Christ Church), 5 and 4.

MELAKA: Indonesian open tournament: 276: Siva Aro (Burma), 70, 67, 70, 69. 280: Kao Chia-Halong (Taiwan), 70, 69, 71, 70. 283: E. Nival (Philippines), 67, 73, 73, 70; R. Ardz (Philippines), 73, 71, 70, 70. 284: R. Underwood (US), 72, 73, 71, 68; H. Noguchi (Japan), 69, 70, 74, 71. 285: S. Onsham (Thailand), 75, 73, 71, 66; Hsu Sheng-San (Taiwan), 75, 72, 68, 70; K. Takayasu (Japan), 73, 73, 66, 71. 287: S. Gino (Australia), 70, 72, 71, 74.

Green takes lead in Jacksonville tournament

Jacksonville, Florida, March 21.—Hubert Green turned in his second consecutive five-under-par 67 yesterday and gained a one-stroke lead after three rounds of the Greater Jacksonville open golf tournament.

Green, who won last week in the Doral Eastern open, has a 10-under-par total of 206 and the lead over Miller Barber, Mike Hill, the second-round leader, scored a one-under-par 71 and is two shots behind on 208.

Lou Graham, the United States champion, equalled the course record—a seven-under-par 65—and is on 209. Alone in fifth place on 211 is Gary Player, of South Africa, who had his second consecutive 69 today.

Peter Oosterhuis, of Britain, a contender the first day, returned a 73 and now stands at 215. Green had four birdies on the front nine and added another at the 10th. He parred the rest of the way. "My putter is working just as it was last week", he said. His overall game was also solid. He did not miss a green.

LEADING SCORES: 206: H. Green, 72, 67, 67. 207: M. Barber, 71, 67, 69. 208: M. Hill, 69, 68, 71. 209: L. Graham, 71, 73, 69; 211: G. Player (SA), 73, 69, 69; 213: D. January, 74, 70, 68, L. Ziemer, 75, 69, 69, L. Elder, 70, 73, 69, R. Massengale, 70, 72, 70, L. Lott, 70, 71, 71, B. Crenshaw, 70, 71, 71, M. Hayes, 70, 70, 73, Jerry Pate, 70, 69, 75, E. Dougherty, 75, 72, 67. 214: T. Weiskopf, 73, 69, 71. British score: 215: P. Oosterhuis, 69, 73, 73.—Reuter.

LUSAKA: Multinational open tournament: 205: J. Newton (Australia), 71, 68, 72. 208: T. Horton (GB), 70, 68, 70. 210: G. Smith (GB), 70, 71, 69. 211: A. Brooks (GB), 73, 71, 67. 212: K. Brown (GB), 75, 65, 72. 213: P. Cowan (GB), 70, 73, 70. 215: N. Burgess (Australia), 72, 71, 72; M. Jones (GB), 72, 70, 73; D. Jones (GB), 74, 73, 70. 216: P. Elson (GB), 70, 73, 71; G. Rent (GB), 71, 74, 71. 217: M. Foster (GB), 76, 70, 72; M. King (GB), 73, 73, 72; R. Cahade (GB), 75, 73, 72. 219: D. Ingram (GB), 70, 72, 77; P. Mason (GB), 68, 77, 74. 220: J. Barnes (GB), 71, 79, 70.

Cricket

Gomes brothers hold up Indian attack

Port of Spain, March 21.—The Indians were 42 in front of Trinidad at lunch on the first innings on the final day of their match here today.

India's bowlers toiled all day yesterday but failed to break a stubborn sixth wicket partnership between the Gomes brothers, Larry and Sheldon. The brothers came together yesterday evening with Trinidad tottering on 98 for five and facing the prospect of a follow-on in reply to India's 345 for eight declared. By the close today Trinidad were 249 for five with Larry on 97 and Sheldon 78.

Although the pair batted throughout the day, at no stage were they on top of the Indian bowling which at times had them in all sorts of difficulties. When Larry was 39 having added only two to his overnight 37, the wicketkeeper, Krishnamurthy, failed to bring off a stumping chance offered by Venkataraghavan.

INDIANS: First innings 345 for 8 dec (A. D. Gaekwad 114, B. Patel 65, M. Amarnath 58, S. M. Gavaskar 50; Indian All 5-127).

Second Innings

O. Vengsarkar, not out	15
S. M. Gavaskar not out	9
Extras	3
Total (0 wkt)	27

Trinidad: First Innings

R. Paris, c Venkataraghavan, b Bedi	29
D. Ramkissoon, c Gavaskar, b Solkar	0
L. Gomes, c Sharma, b Gavaskar	110
T. Goffy, b Vedi	30
B. Julien, b Venkataraghavan	3
D. Murray, l-b-w, b Bedi	6
S. Gomes, st Krishnamurthy, b Bedi	80
P. Cartholomew, l-b-w, b Bedi	11
R. Lyon, c Gavaskar, b Venkataraghavan	3
Inshan Ali, c Madan Lal, b Bedi	10
Imtiaz Ali, not out	1
Extras (l-b 7, n-b 1)	16
Total	303

FALL OF WICKETS: 1—0, 2—48, 3—50, 4—63, 5—70, 6—265, 7—266, 8—277, 9—287.

BOWLING: M. Amarnath, 7—1—27—0; E. Solkar, 13—1—34—1; B. Bedi, 60.3—18—103—6; S. Venkataraghavan, 61—17—110—2; S. Gavaskar, 3—0—10—1; B. Patel, 1—0—3—0.—Reuter.

Yorkshire make a profit

Yorkshire County Cricket Club made a profit of £9,238 last year compared with a loss of £9,957 the previous 12 months. This was reported at the annual meeting in Sheffield when the former Yorkshire and England cricketers, Norman Yardley and Fred Trueman, were elected honorary life members of the club in recognition of their services.

Members were assured by the president, Sir Kenneth Parkinson, that Yorkshire were still seeking a permanent ground in Sheffield. Matches have been played at Abbeydale Park since Bramall Lane ceased to be available but weekend games cannot be staged there.

Show jumping

DORTMUND: Puissance: E. Macken (Ireland), Islander, 6ft 2in; 2, H. Horn (Netherlands), Goodfather; G. Meier (Netherlands), Sanspeur; N. Pessoa (Brazil), Sohyr; H. Roeder (W Germany), Orlando; F. Ligges (W Germany), Genius; H. Horn, Winnetou, and H. Stoecken (W. Germany), Erle.

Darts

LONDON: World championship, Quarter-final round: Belgium beat England 3—0; Scotland beat Canada, 3—2; Wales beat US, 3—1; Australia beat SA, 3—0. Semi-final round: Belgium beat Scotland, 3—1; Australia beat Wales, 3—0. Final: Australia beat Belgium, 3—0.

Cross-country

CHINGFORD: Orion Harriers 15 mile open race: 1, R. A. Chadwick (Thames Hare and Hounds), 1hr 27min 0sec; 2, R. J. Harding (Invicta), 1:28; 3, S. J. Bryant (Thames Hare and Hounds), 1:38:17; 4, G. R. Clark (Verlea), 1:38:56. Teams: 1, Thames Hare and Hounds, 4:35:30; 2, Invicta, 4:36:14; 3, Borough of Enfield, 4:59:58; 4, Oxford University.

Water polo

BARCELONA: Six nations tournament: Spain 7, Britain 2; Italy 10, Britain 3. Overall (after 4 games): Spain, 8 pts; Italy, 6; Netherlands, 5; West Germany, 3; Britain, 2; Sweden 0.

Athletics

Record set by Mary Stewart at 3,000 metres

Mary Stewart celebrated her first competitive run over 3,000 metres with a United Kingdom all-comers and national indoor record in an invitation race at the under-20 championships at Cosford on Saturday.

The 20-year-old Birmingham athlete recorded 9min 7.6sec, taking 20sec off the previous national record set by Ann Ford when running for Britain against Canada earlier this month.

MEN

JUNIOR: 60 metres: D. Baptiste (Essex Beagles), 6.8sec. 200m: G. Thompson (Essex Beagles), 22.3. 400m: M. Francis (Stretford), 49.7. 800m: N. Hale (Holbeach), 1min 57.1sec. 1,500m: K. Glastonbury (Cardiff), 3:51. 5,000m: S. Cahill (Leeds City), 13:38. 60m hurdles: I. Bentley (Stoke Sixth Form College), 8.2. Long jump: D. Thompson (Essex Beagles), 23ft 2in. High jump: M. Milner (Wolverhampton and Bilston), 6ft 3in. Pole vault: K. Brock (Croydon), 13ft. Shot: A. Vince (Chelmsford), 51ft. Triple jump: K. Connor (Windsor), 44ft 10½in.

WOMEN

INTERMEDIATE: 60m: E. Nixon (Edinburgh), 7.6. 400m: S. Howell (Leeds), 55.4. 800m: V. Weston (Lincoln, Wellington), 2:15.7. 1,500m: J. Donovan (Warrington), 4:13.2. 60m hurdle: J. Duffield (Borough of Enfield), 8.6. Long jump: J. Frankish (Mitcham), 18ft. High jump: N. M. Davally (Bedford and County), 5ft. Shot: M. Tree (Medway), 34ft.

SENIOR: Invitation 3,000m: M. Stewart (Airdrieonians), 9min 7.6sec.

Scottish record broken in Australia

Melbourne, March 21.—Stewart McCallum broke the Scottish national 400 metres hurdles record at the Australian athletics championship here today.

McCallum, who finished third behind two Australians, had a time of 50.7 seconds, seven tenths of a second better than the record he set last year.

McCallum, who has spent his life savings on a trip to Australia to train during the British winter, said he was delighted with his performance. He added he was confident that by the time the British team for Montreal was selected in June, he would have run inside the games' standard of 50.5sec.

Raelene Boyle, of Australia, whose athletics future has been threatened by poor form and injury, completed the sprint double.

Miss Boyle, who won the silver medal at the 1968 Olympic Games and two more silvers at the 1972 Munich Olympics, said after winning today's 200 metres: "I came here expecting nothing. But for some reason just after the start of the 100 it suddenly all came back. I was desperate to win and I did."—Reuter.

Rackets

Angus gains revenge with a conclusive victory

Howard Angus retained his title and avenged his amateur championship defeat by beating John Prenn 15—7, 15—7, 12—15, 15—7, 13—6 in the final of the British open rackets championship, sponsored by Louis Roederer Champagne, at Queen's Club yesterday. A few hours later Angus left for New York for the start of the world real tennis championship against the American Eugene Scott.

Angus's win over Prenn was conclusive. Except for the third game and the start of the fourth, in which he showed some signs of anxiety, he kept Prenn on the defensive. Prenn was the first to admit this. He said: "I cannot complain at this defeat. He was playing far too well. The only time I thought I might have a chance was when I led 6—4 in the fourth game but he came back at me".

To four hands Angus reasserted himself, destroying that slender lead and, moving into the ball more smoothly than previously in the match, began the fifth and last game with four winning strokes. This lead he increased to 12—0 with, among other shots, six winning services. The inscrutable Prenn could only offer a brief act of defiance before accepting defeat.

When these two met in the amateur championship Angus had played without confidence or assurance. He had been bothered by Prenn's American twist service and never achieved command of the court. All this had changed. Angus, and other players, can now read that service and, to the rallies, he kept Prenn behind him with good length down the walls or across the court.

The effect was that Prenn's forehand was most suspect. In the first two games and at the end he was made to mistime it badly and Angus hammered him to that corner. Prenn's stronger backhand was never given much reign and, significantly, his return of service, always an Achilles heel, frequently betrayed him under the pressure of good serving. Angus served 35 aces to Prenn's 16.

RESULT: British open championship: Final: H. R. Angus (holder) beat J. A. N. Prenn 15—7, 15—7, 12—15, 15—7, 13—6.

Squash rackets

Ayton justifies place at top of British rankings

Philip Ayton justified his place at the top of the British rankings when he crushed the Middlesex county player, Richard Carter, in the British closed squash championship sponsored by Rolex, at Wembley on Saturday. Ayton was in superb form, and although he snapped the shaft of his racket in the third game, he won the 25 minute encounter 9—2, 9—4, 9—2.

Ayton said afterwards that he was confident of lifting the top domestic amateur title having been robbed of a chance in last year's inaugural tournament by a bout of influenza.

"I was delighted with my game today, and although I have not played much recently I seem to have overcome the bad patch which cost me several matches and also worried me a lot", he said.

Ayton has now won two of his three qualifying group matches and is expected to ease into the semi-finals tomorrow.

Jonathan Leslie, the England No 4, experienced no problems with the back injury which had threatened to rob him of the chance of defending his crown. He completed his second win of of the round robin series by beating the Scottish International, Neil Martin 9—2, 9—0, 3—9, 9—4.

ROUND ROBIN: P. G. Verow beat W. M. Hurndley, 5—9, 9—5, 9—7, 9—6; M. W. Corby beat R. H. Johnson, 6—9, 9—6, 9—6, 9—2; C. M. Wilmot beat P. E. Millman, 8—10, 9—2, 9—7, 2—9, 10—8; J. C. Leslie beat N. D. Martin, 9—2, 7—9, 5—9, 9—4; P. J. Kirton beat R. R. Chalmers, 9—1, 1—9, 4—9; P. N. Ayton beat R. H. Carter, 9—2, 9—4, 9—2; S. H. Courtney beat B. Pearson, 5—9, 6—9, 9—2, 9—6, 10—8; P. S. Kenyon beat A. K. Bruce-Lockhart, 7—9, 9—0, 9—9, 9—0, 9—5; P. S. Kenyon beat B. Pearson, 9—4, 7—9, 9—5, 9—4; R. H. Johnson beat P. G. Verow, 10—8, 9—0, 1—9, 5—9, 9—5.

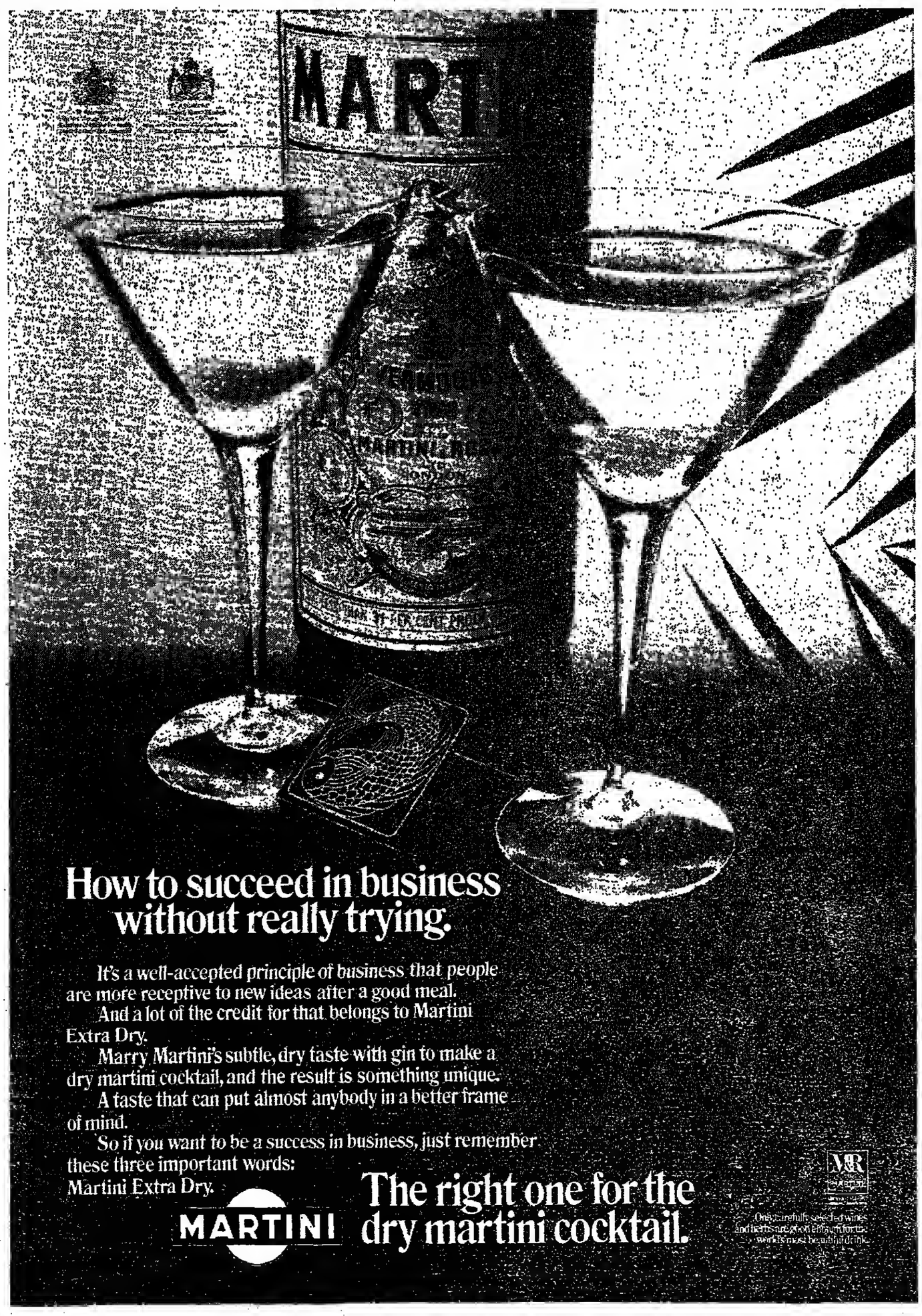
Yesterday

R. H. Carter beat R. R. Chalmers, 9—6, 9—5, 9—2; P. N. Ayton beat P. G. Kirton, 5—9, 9—2, 9—2, 9—7; A. K. Bruce-Lockhart beat B. Pearson, 9—6, 9—7, 9—1; S. H. Courtney beat P. S. Kenyon, 9—7, 9—6, 9—0.

It took just 43 minutes for Qamar Zaman, the world number five, to beat Jonah Barrington in the semi-final round of the international squash championship, sponsored by Sun Life at Bristol yesterday.

Gone was the confidence that led Barrington to his finest achievement for two years when he beat Gogi Alauddin in the quarter final. In contrast to that sharp display, Barrington was never allowed to get into his stride, although the British number one did not go down without a fight.

SEMI-FINAL ROUND: H. Jahan (Pakistan) beat M. Khan (Pakistan), 6—3, 4—9, 10—9, 10—9; Q. Zaman (Pakistan) beat J. Barrington (GB), 9—1, 9—3, 9—6.



How a British colony is drifting helplessly away on a sea of advice

The Falklands: Whitehall farce that is turning into tragedy

Britain has misgoverned, misrepresented, misinformed, and most important of all misjudged the people of the Falkland Islands. To a lesser extent so has Argentina.

The 1,900 inhabitants of the islands in the South Atlantic, are nearly all of British descent. They are virtually prisoners, almost totally isolated from the world and the international scene, and have become the plaything of a diplomatic wrangle which has become a frustration and a nuisance to Whitehall.

The dispute between Britain and Argentina over the sovereignty issue has been going on for more than a century. But recent events, like the visit to the islands by Lord Shackleton and his mission, the attack by an Argentine destroyer on the research ship Shackleton, and a number of other, smaller incidents, have brought the situation to the boil.

It is almost Gilbertian and would indeed be so if it were not fast becoming a tragedy involving the lives of good, honest farming folk. Most of them are too unsophisticated to realize what is going on around them. They have been hoodwinked by their own government; this in turn appears to have been misguided by Whitehall.

They are governed by a virtually undemocratic body headed by a Governor, Mr Neville French, who firmly believes that their only future lies with Argentina. The Government is slow, inefficient and in some instances devious.

Agreements are slipped through the Government's council meetings and the elected councillors given no chance to examine them: in at least one case a Ministry of Overseas Development administration report was "doctored" so that only special versions were available in the islands; there are so many reports from so many advisers ranging from goose counters to trout fishermen that it is impossible to calculate the number—all as a sop to the islands by Whitehall to give them the impression that London cares.

Some reports damn the islands unfairly as far as their economic future is concerned. "Experts", advisers, and professional workers from Britain are often quite unsuited and unprepared for what they find.

With such an accumulation of knowledge, the islanders have become surrounded by a sea of advice and are drifting helplessly towards Argentina with a good push from their Governor and the British Foreign and Commonwealth Office who believe that greater economic cooperation with Argentina is inevitable.

In this Whitehall farce, secret documents from HM ships turn up on Port Stanley town's rubbish dump; Royal Navy personnel, dressed as tourists with pocketfuls of dollars, slip through Argentina to establish a communications centre on the islands—called by some the "Felton stream". As a listening post the islands have no equal with ESRO, NASA, BAS, Cable and Wireless ("we must keep a low profile"), repeater stations, and who knows what else?

Communications experts come and go seemingly as numerous as the counters of geese and examiners of tussack grass. And yes, there is the CIA which is reputed to have a department of 16 men who are said to be able to tell the type and colour of any of the islanders' underwear.

Then there's the airfield, or rather the two airfields. Less than a mile apart a team of Argentine military engineers is racing to extend a "temporary" airstrip in competition with the British Johnston Construction company which is rapidly completing a new £4.2m permanent airfield which is *likely to become a white elephant* as it is too small.

Argentine petroleum engineers have half completed a substantial storage tank installation but are unable to provide a suitable waterside terminal because of a blunder by British Government officials. Now Britain may have to spend up to £200,000 to build a new jetty so that Argentine tankers can pipe fuel ashore to the new storage depot and its 30 tanks.

The catalogue of events goes on and on as successive British governments continue a policy of playing it cool with Argentina so as not to disturb the status quo of the sovereignty issue, especially when the question of oil comes into the picture.

"Sterile" was the word that Mr James Callaghan *used to* describe this issue early in the year. And this more than anything else has injured the Argentine Foreign Ministry's pride. It is now awaiting a letter (of apology?) from Mr Callaghan.

Discussing Mr Callaghan's statement, Dr Raul Quijano, the Foreign Minister, said in an interview: "This certainly was unacceptable for us because the centre of our discussions is not communications, but this one of sovereignty . . . it was a sort of block for us. We cannot move forward. If the United Kingdom does not wish to discuss this issue we cannot talk about the other ones. Of course we are very much interested in economic cooperation and communications, but without the sovereignty issue these are very *much peripheral subjects.*"

He thought from a geographical point of view it was logical and commonsense that the islands, being so far from Britain, should realize the advantages of sovereignty with Argentina. "With a ship coming only once a month (in fact it is every three months) the islanders have a primitive life, *good only for the eighteenth* century", said Dr Quijano.

The minister said that Argentina could not act as a guarantor with Britain and, say Canada, for the independence of the island, the most likely solution to the problem. "They are part of our territory", he reiterated. But he went on to make a significant and revealing remark about independence which he did not elaborate other than to say: "In this matter there is a very good understanding with the United Kingdom."

Last month saw the dissolution of the Falklands' Government whose life had been twice extended by the Privy Council in order that changes to the island's constitution to make it more democratic—by increasing the number of elected members—could be considered by the Foreign Secretary.

The machinery of the government and its secretariat is so weighed down with bureaucracy that it is generally thought to be incapable of operating efficiently. As one businessman put it: "They are all geared up for a full-scale colonial administration like Hongkong and don't realise they have only 2,000 people to deal with." One of the things that Lord Shackleton's mission is studying is the present administration.

The Governor would like to see a newspaper established but apart from a recently revived duplicated monthly journal there is none. The media is the local government controlled and operated broadcasting station. All news is censored by the Governor and this action is causing concern.

Whether or not the broadcasting service is a major issue in the light of other problems it is indicative of the kind of apparent misjudgment that seems prevalent in the islands which have been in the governor's own words, "thrust into the international scene". As he rightly says: "They are an incredibly *prosperous community* with one of the highest per capita incomes in the world; a lot of people who just want to get on with their jobs and be left alone to lead a decent life. They don't impose a threat to anyone and I think it is tragic that they should be so harassed and their nerves frayed and strained."

Harassment there is, to be sure. The Argentine Air Force with agreement with Britain operates a once weekly flight to the mainland—the only link. For the past few weeks because of a fight involving a local and the daubing of slogans on some of their vehicles in Port Stanley, flights have been postponed. The Chief Police Officer, Terry Peck, says this is a deliberate, retaliatory measure. More recently telephone links to Argentina have been cut and the air fare to Buenos Aires doubled.

Thus anyone wishing to leave the islands is now being penalized by Argentina—the new fare—£200—represents about 15 weeks basic average wages on the island. Whether or not Britain feels inclined to take issue over this action, subsidized military aid remains to be seen. To the Falkland Islanders, who have experienced many of these operations, no doubt the outcome is all too clear.

Michael Frenchman

Our electoral system may do more than devolution to break up the United Kingdom

Electoral reform is no longer quite the talking point that it was two years ago, after the bombshell of the February 1974 election result. That result contained so many anomalies that it made almost everyone at least uneasy about the working of our present electoral system—especially as it did not even produce an overall majority for any one party in the House of Commons, which is what most people had come to expect the present system to do. It also obliged people to take more notice than before of the demands of the Liberal Party, of which electoral reform was perhaps the most urgent.

However, the crisis passed. The suggested Conservative-Liberal coalition failed to materialize. A minority Labour Government was formed and managed to soldier through the summer without seeking Liberal support. And the October election did return Labour with an overall majority, albeit a barely visible one which by now has virtually evaporated.

A number of people—perhaps a majority of MPs in both major parties—concluded with a sigh of relief that the February result had been an unfortunate freak which would not repeat itself, and that the question of electoral reform could now be dropped. But some other people, including some MPs of all parties, continued to feel uneasy. They noted that the "majority" Labour Government reflected the votes of only 39 per cent of the electorate. They also noted that, while the Liberal Party lost some of the votes gained in February, parties with a purely regional appeal—SNP, Ulster Unionists and Plaid Cymru—continued to do well. This is, in fact, a natural result of the electoral system, which gives encouragement to small parties that can concentrate their support in a small number of constituencies, while discouraging those whose support is evenly spread throughout the country.

The short-term effect of this phenomenon is to transform British politics from a two or three-party system into a multi-party system, thereby lowering the percentage of the votes which the winning party in any general election is likely to get, and also making more likely another election result which gives no party an overall majority in terms of seats. The medium-term effect could well be to hasten, if not to cause, the break-up of the United Kingdom.

Anxiety on this point is sharpened by the Government's proposals for devolution. Ignoring the only unanimous recommendation of the Kilbrandon Commission, which was that a proportional system should be used for electing the Scottish Assembly, the Government proposes to use the existing Westminster system. If current trends of opinion in Scotland continue, the effect of this could be to give an overall majority in the Assembly to the SNP, even if it has less than 40 per cent of the votes.

It appears that the Government also expects to use the existing system for direct elections to the European Parliament. As well as making it likely that Scotland could be represented at Strasbourg solely by SNP members, this would make it virtually certain, given the size of constituencies that would have to be used, that the Liberal Party would not win a single seat. A grotesquely unrepresentative British delegation would thus be sent to sit in an assembly where everyone else (except possibly the French) had been elected on a proportional system.

These problems are sufficiently topical to keep a public debate alive, and should ensure considerable interest in the findings of the Hansard Society's commission on electoral reform, which is expected to report in June. This commission, with Lord Blake as chairman, has its origin in the general feeling of unease about system in parliamentary circles, but its members were by no means all committed advocates of change.

Among the advocates of electoral reform in this country there has for the past 10 years or so been a consensus in favour of the single transferable vote in multi-member constituencies (STV)—the system used in the Irish Republic. This was the system adopted by Mr Whitelaw for the election of the Northern Ireland Assembly (and retained for the election of the Convention), and also recommended by the Kilbrandon Commission.

The popularity of this system in Britain (it is unknown on the Continent) owes a great deal to the indefatigable and persuasive advocacy of Miss Enid Lakeman and her Electoral Reform Society. In fact, the merits claimed for it by its supporters go well beyond mere proportionality. The question is whether, in pursuit of these other merits, proportionality itself is not lost sight of. Certainly there is no straightforward relation between proportions of *first-preference* votes and seats won—although the rough-and-ready relation which there is is certainly a closer one than exists under the present British system.

There is little doubt, in any case, that STV is more acceptable to British opinion than the party list system, which involves much larger constituencies and dissolves any real personal link between the elector and his MP.

In West Germany half the members of the Bundestag are elected by exactly the same system as in Britain. But the voter at the same time casts a second vote for a regional party list, and the remaining seats are so distributed between parties as to make each party's total representation in the Bundestag proportional to its share of these second votes.

There are two main objections to this system, from a British point of view. One is that to adopt it would involve either doubling the size of the present constituencies, or doubling the size of the House of Commons, or increasing both. The other is that the constituencies are not in any case of much real importance, since it is the list vote which determines the overall result.

Some parliamentarians consider that the present House of Commons is anyway too small to provide an adequate supply of junior ministers and members of committees. Some feel that an increase in the size of constituencies would not necessarily make a drastic difference. The difficulty could at least be palliated by reducing the proportion of seats to be filled from the list vote to 40 instead of 50 per cent—which would still allow parties to be represented with reasonable fairness.

The second objection could be met by a more fundamental and original variation of the system. Instead of casting his second vote for a list of names, the voter could cast it simply for a party. The list from which the extra seats for each party would be filled could then be automatically constituted from the unsuccessful candidates of that party in the constituency contests, in order of their performance in those contests. Performance could be defined either by the percentage of the total poll obtained, or by the narrowness of the margin between the candidate in question and the constituency winner: in most cases it would not make a great difference.

Such a system would certainly not have all the merits claimed for STV by the Electoral Reform Society. But it might have the all-important merit of being acceptable to members of the present House of Commons—or of any House of Commons elected under the present system—since it would displace fewer of them than any other proportional system imaginable and would at the same time maintain the sovereignty of the individual constituency.

These are some of the arguments which members of the Hansard commission are considering, but it should be emphasized that they have not yet made up their minds whether to recommend an electoral reform on these lines, or indeed any reform at all.

Edward Mortimer

Proof that the impossible takes a little longer

Raymond Fletcher

People believe we can cut through the machinery of modern life

All MPs now have regular surgeries in their constituencies. The practice, I believe, began with my predecessor at Ilkeston, Mr George Oliver. Before he adopted this way of getting better known by, and more helpful to, the people he represented, an MP was a remote figure whose visits to his constituency were events. Now he is reminded, weekly or fortnightly as the case may be, that he is a public servant, better paid than the postman but roughly in the same category.

So we sit in town halls on Friday evenings or Saturday mornings, waiting to hear about problems that are only remotely related to the balance of payments or the rate of inflation—the things we orate about in the Chamber—and we become smaller and bigger at the same time. Because those who come to see us do not come to see us as important figures or potential statesmen. They come to see us because they believe that we can do the impossible and cut a way through the complicated machinery of modern life to a solution of the problem that troubles them.

An old lady comes in. She cannot understand why her pension is taxed and why, therefore, every increase that she is given leaves her in the same position financially as before. It is no use quoting Denis Healey at her. She just wants to know why she cannot get a *real* rise and what are you going to do to get it for her?

The next constituent is in an angry mood. He carries newspaper clippings reporting how well foreigners are doing out of the welfare state while he, an old soldier, finds it impossible to get by on his own small income. He is not entitled to supplementary benefit. He has saved throughout his life and has a little too much in the bank to qualify. You explain as best you can, but you cannot explain away the report he flourishes. A French sailor *did* have a good time in Britain at public expense a few weeks ago, and an old soldier is having a bad time on a mere pittance.

You know quite well that the local officials of the Department of Health and Social Security invariably bend over backwards to apply the rules humanely. If you are a sensible MP you will know them personally and be able to talk on first-name terms about borderline cases. But you also know that rules can be bent only so far and that your local office is not Fort Knox, stacked with gold.

So, depressingly aware of your own impotence in such matters, you talk to two former miners who come in *together with a familiar problem.* They were made redundant too early to qualify for the concessionary coal which other former miners get. You know the answer. You know that the general secretary of the miners' union, to whom you will naturally write, will have to give the same answer. And you explain what the mining MPs in the House of Commons are trying to do to get the scheme revised. But, as always, you are faced with the problem of those who fall just below the line that has to be drawn in every welfare scheme and every piece of welfare legislation.

A young couple come in to thank you for helping them. You have, in fact, done nothing of the kind, since housing problems are dealt with by the local councillors to whom you referred the problem in the first place. You explain this, but you know quite well that they do not quite believe you. It is unfortunate for the councillors, but it is sometimes comforting to have a little gratitude. It has no place in politics, nor should it, but it is pleasant to be reminded that perhaps you do earn your salary and the councillors their expenses.

Then come the usual crop of income tax problems. Most of them require the arranging of interviews between tax inspectors, who are usually very cooperative, and aggrieved taxpayers. But more and more of them—an ominous sign—are complaints about a level of taxation and a system of applying it that seems to penalise workers who really want to work and earn more. You promise to write to the Chancellor, and you will, but you know (if you are in the Labour Party) that your colleagues in Parliament will merely dismiss your pleas for a simplification of the tax system, and some reduction in the burden of individual taxation, as merely another sign that you are falling for Tory propaganda.

There is always a compensation case. Somebody is quite convinced that the evidence given at his tribunal was not properly presented and that the doctors did not know what they were talking about and what are you going to do about it? For the twentieth time in a month you go through the details of the appeals procedure and, just to keep yourself free from accusations by unions of interfering in their business, note that your must inform your constituent's trade union of the interview and ask for background information.

Then comes the inevitable legal case. Your constituent, who has lost in court, is quite convinced that you can reverse the verdict in Parliament. He is dissatisfied with the whole system, the lawyers who work within it, and the Home Secretary he imagines can act as a super-judge but will not. And if you cannot do something about the injustice that has been done to him he will bring his case to the attention of the Sunday papers.

So it goes on. Some problems you can solve. Many constituents you can help. But you realize, late on Saturday afternoon when you begin your visits to the disabled, how powerless you really are and how little legislation can do to bring about that complete social justice to which you were once blazingly committed. You recall how Trotsky once set your mind afire with a vision of a world turned upside down and refashioned nearer to the heart's desire. But you have simmered down, over the years, into an obscure social democrat, still dreaming but only able to dream. So what, in this mood, do you do? You naturally write to *The Times* about it.

The author is Labour MP for Ilkeston.

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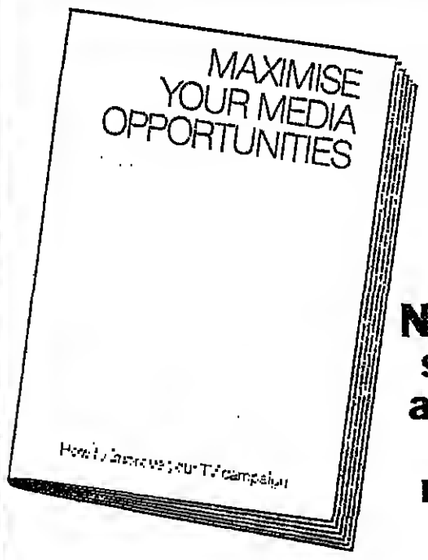

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The Times Diary

Roundheads romp home again

Oxford won the Boat Race on Saturday shortly after the Parliamentarians routed the army of Charles I in a final volley of musket. It all happened in Chiswick, as Victoria Radin reports:

A nip was in the air as the teeming throng criad for blood and ice cream down on Duke's playing fields, a large space bounded on one side by the Thames and on another by Chiswick allotments. Here people watch the end of the Boat Race, and here, too, the apprentices of London defeated the King's Army in a glorious conflict which became known as the Battle of Turnham Green.

Saturday was no anniversary, the original battle having been fought on a wet November day in 1642. But Chiswick Arts Centre need money and decided to capitalize on the ready-made Boat Race crowd. (It was anyway a lot more authentic than the last re-staging of the Battle of Turnham Green, which was held on Clapham Common.)

Dressed in leather jerkins, velvet breeches, bucket topped boots, pikemen's pots (helmets) and other authentic garments, and painted with fake blood, the troops charged each other in formations which, to a non-addict, were remarkably boring. A well-spoken female voice from a loudspeaker delivered a running commentary which explained the difference between fusillades and volleys.

Occasionally, when the action appeared to peter out, she egged us on with comments like: "The citizens of London must be in a state of considerable agitation at this moment." Occasionally she appeared to be so, as she announced that "Jason, who is wearing an orange tee shirt has lost his uncle."

The end of the battle came when the massed soldiers, who numbered several hundred, turned and charged their audience, who seemed quite happy to be trampled underfoot. Having secured victory for Cromwell, the soldiers turned in an unmilitary formation and rushed to the centre of the pitch, where free beer was being handed out. At some point during this mêlée, the Oxford crew rowed past to certain victory. A nice double for two short-priced favourites.

Well-heeled

I had never previously heard of the Residents' Association of Mayfair, but when I heard they were organizing a protest meeting last week, it sounded fun. I imagined hordes of pained bankers, debutantes and titled persons (Margaret, Duchess of Argyll is vice-president), all stamping their well-heeled feet at some outrage.

It was not like that at all. Many of the people who inhabit the area bounded by Park Lane, Oxford Street, Bond Street and Piccadilly, live in blocks of small nineteenth century flats, some of them built by the Peabody Trust and other charitable organizations.

The meeting was to discuss a plan by Grosvenor Estates to redevelop a site near Bond Street underground, which would involve turning some basement flats into shops (replacing them with new flats nearby). It was clear that passions were going to be heated as soon as Brigadier C. G. T. Viner, the chairman, began laying down the rules for the meeting, and was loudly accused of "autocracy" by a dissident at the back, who later walked out in protest at a time limit on contributions from the floor.

A man from Grosvenor Estates began by saying what a splendid scheme it was, and he was followed by an American woman who said the opposite, compensating for her nationality by using a Mayfair-style rolled umbrella as a pointer on a small map of the disputed area.

It soon became apparent that living in Mayfair, though handy for the shops, involves hazards which do not afflict the rest of us. The American, Terri Lindner, spoke of such pollutants as "tricksters, pickpockets and tourists" who would come into residential areas if shops were built there.

Others feared that the new underground station, with its threatened six exits, would bring an unstemmable flow of such undesirables. "The card-sharpers will love it", declared a doughty vigilante in the middle of the hall. "I once moved one set of them on 10 times in one day. When the police come they just nip round the corner and disappear, and with six exits it'll be impossible to catch them."

Someone else had another thought: "What about public conveniences for all those people who will be coming?" A cynical resident replied: "They'll use the flats like they do now, dear."

The man from Grosvenor Estates insisted that it was not their intention to wreak ravages on the neighbourhood. He must have used the word "responsible" at least a dozen times to describe his company. Yet he failed to convince most of those I spoke to afterwards that their intention was not simply to make lavish sums of money by cashing in on the area's proximity to Oxford Street and letting shops at high rents.

The brisk Brig Viner managed to end the meeting by 8.15, only a quarter of an hour later than he originally intended. Half past eight is dinner time in Mayfair.

Wizard

The men who put the "Zonk" and "Kersplat" in cartoon strips have been meeting in London to discuss the future of that 101-year-old institution, the British comic. Alan Hamilton went to the first comic artists' convention, and he reports:

Comic writers and artists are a lonely breed, who rarely meet their editors and almost never meet each other. Denis Gifford, a cartoonist and comic historian who organized the convention, thought it about time they got together to indulge in a little mutual admiration.

Most artists agreed with Gifford that comics are becoming more violent and that children's cartoon characters are about to become permissive. "Slapstick violence of the Tom and Jerry kind is one thing, but the new violence is real; it prints blood in red, which is an unwelcome milestone. They even have a shark now that bites people's legs off with full frontal teeth", said Gifford.

Roy Bullen, a strip writer from D. C. Thomson of Dundee, thought that the clean-cut heroes of boys' comic papers would soon be taking up with women. "I am scripting The Saint for the Swedish market and he is having a few love affairs. The big names in British boys' papers now are Peter Flint and Fireball. These are heroic characters, and heroic characters will have to have women if they are not going to become ponfy."

Terry Wakefield drew the Laurel and Hardy strip in *Film Fun* until the paper closed in 1959; now he works as a hospital storekeeper. "My only training was watching my father, who drew the strip before me."

Comic artists are unanimous in their admiration of Dan Dare, who took the sales of *Eagle* to over a million copies a week. Lesser cartoonists gazed in wonder at a display of some of the exquisite original drawings by Frank Hampson, who is now a civil servant.

Danny Posner, whose shop in Charing Cross Road deals in old comics, confirmed that there are still plenty of Dan Dare enthusiasts about. "I bought 700 old *Eagles* at Sotheby's three weeks ago, and they have all gone. Both it and *Beano* have a mystique which no other comic has managed to create." Not even Ron Embleton, who draws the very adult Wicked Wanda strip for *Penthouse*. He brought along his model, in thigh length leather boots. "Zowwwee!" they gasped in unison.

Following my reports of a computer sending a letter to "Dear Mr Newspapers" a reader claims that he sent his typewriter to a South London firm for the repair of a jammed key, and the invoice came back addressed to "Mr G. Stuck".

PHS

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THE DAY OF NOMINATIONS

The Labour Party's election process is well designed to give members time to reflect on the needs of the party, and of the country, and to change their minds. It is almost impossible that a result should be reached in less than three ballots and it is quite conceivable that there will be four. That gives Labour members of Parliament until the week starting on Monday, April 5 before they have their new leader.

Such a long process of election is inevitably subject to changes of mood. The mood of the first days was very favourable to Mr Callaghan, and had there been an election on the day that Mr Wilson announced his intention to resign, Mr Callaghan would unquestionably have won it by a large majority. He is still in some circles the favourite to win, but he has been suffering from the natural consequences of being the front runner. The supporters of every other candidate have been looking for arguments with which to undermine him, and such arguments are never difficult to find. Mr Callaghan is not in our view the best choice that the Labour Party could make, but he would make a good leader. He is thoroughly patriotic, has a deep understanding of the Labour Party and the trade union movement and a deserved reputation for common sense. His support could come again.

The beneficiary of the decline in Mr Callaghan's support is Mr Michael Foot, who may come out well ahead on the first ballot. Mr Foot has a number of advantages. Just as Mrs Thatcher was the most Tory of the main candidates for the Conservative leadership, so Mr Foot is the most Socialist of the main candidates for the Labour leadership. His rhetoric is the party's traditional rhetoric and his militancy is the party's traditional militancy. At the Ministry of Employment Mr Foot has formed a close alliance with the trade unions and has the quiet support of a number of powerful trade union leaders. Most Labour leaders have been elected from the left, and Hugh Gaitskell, who was not, depended for his election on trade union support.

In any election a man's virtues lift him into a prominence where his defects can the better be scrutinized. The Labour Party is concerned to elect a Prime Minister who can successfully lead the Government and a party leader who can lead his party to victory. Mr Foot is an exciting orator, but he does not leave the impression of the strong judgment of a Prime Minister, nor has he experience of office equal to that of the other competitors for the leadership. He also frightens people. The very militancy which excites Labour audiences alarms industry and the City, and no doubt would terrify some holders of sterling as well. Even among Labour voters a third apparently regard Mr Foot as an unacceptable leader, and that too is because he is seen as too angry a figure. Indeed, his best speeches are angry speeches.

Labour members of Parliament still have at least a couple of weeks in which to reflect on Mr Foot as a Prime Minister. They may well come to the conclusion that it would be emotionally exciting to have him as leader, but that it would not be good for government or elections. It is easier to gain a reputation for militancy than to lose it.

It is primarily for Labour members of Parliament to consider their party interests. Other people have every right to consider the national interest. Any foreign observer, as was shown by a recent television programme, sees Britain's greatest danger as economic. This crisis will not be quickly solved under any new government or any policy. The ability to contribute to its solution can reasonably be considered an absolute requirement for the next Prime Minister. During the next two weeks the Labour Party in Parliament should be asking itself this question: who can best lead the nation through great economic dangers?

Leaving aside Mr Crosland, who is a well qualified and gifted man but has too little support, this leaves the three candidates who have held the office of Chancellor of the Exchequer. On the record Mr Roy Jenkins was the most successful Chancellor and as a matter of judgment he was the best. Mr Healey is very good now, but was bad to begin with. Mr Jenkins in Downing Street with Mr Healey continuing his strong fight against inflation at the Exchequer would be a convincing arrangement; better probably than the other way round or than a Healey leadership with Mr Crosland at the Exchequer.

Mr Healey has the tougher executive ability; Mr Jenkins the wiser historic view of policy; that suggests which places they should fill, but so far as this central question of the economy is concerned both Mr Jenkins and Mr Healey would make excellent leaders. They are qualified because they have learnt the lessons that perhaps only experience of the Treasury can fully bring home to political leaders.

Mr Foot has not learnt these lessons though he has given reluctant assent to Mr Healey's measures, and Mr Benn does not believe them to be true. Mr Callaghan has learnt them, and his persuasive skills as an elder statesman might help to convince the more unwilling members of the Labour Party of the necessities they have to face, or face the consequences of national disaster.

There is no greater service the Labour Party could do the country than to give us a Prime Minister who had mastered the economic issue, supporting a strong Chancellor, both taking together the painful measures that could again stabilize prices and employment. It would be a great national advantage, and a great party advantage because the Conservatives do not have the wealth of experience that is available on the Labour benches. It would be the right thing to do and the advantageous thing to do: that does not at all necessarily mean that it will in fact be done.

THE SCEPTICISM THAT MR GROMYKO WILL FACE

Mr Gromyko comes here at a time when relations between Britain and the Soviet Union are superficially good but when east-west relations as a whole are under more sceptical scrutiny than for some time. The reason is that realistic and unrealistic hopes have been disappointed. One of the unrealistic hopes was that the basic nature of the Soviet system and of Soviet policy would quickly change. It is true that there were signs of a greater openness towards the west and greater willingness for compromise a few years ago, but the Russians were perfectly frank in stating repeatedly that wars of liberation would be helped, that the ideological struggle would go on, and that the infiltration of western ideas would be resisted.

True, at the summit conference with Mr Nixon in May, 1972, they agreed not to seek unilateral advantage at the expense of the Americans, but this was at variance with most of their other published statements, and it was probably based on the assumption that there would be penalties for trying to take advantage of the Americans. As soon as it became clear that Washington was too paralyzed by divisions and guilt to impose any penalties it was unrealistic to expect the Russians to impose a high degree of restraint on themselves. They play power politics like anybody else.

Among the realistic hopes was that there could be effective agreements to control the arms race on the strategic level and on the ground in Europe. Next there was hope that in an atmosphere of greater security and trust the Russians could be persuaded gradually to grant more freedom to the people of eastern Europe. There were also hopes that trade and other contacts would foster interdependence, restrain Soviet adventurism abroad, and encourage what seemed to be a shift in Soviet priorities in favour of the consumer.

These hopes have been disappointed partly because the western world has been plunged into difficulties which have weakened it in all spheres. But the imperatives of the Soviet system have also proved difficult to modify. Internal controls have been tightened rather than loosened. Heavy industry has again taken precedence over the consumer sector. And military spending shows no signs of abating.

Whether this is the result of conscious decision or the pressures of the system (it is politically much easier to make tanks than cars in the Soviet Union) the result is the same. Western public opinion is slowly waking up to the fact that it is facing an enormous and growing military machine. Therefore, unless there is rapid and visible progress towards effective arms agreements there could be a marked change in the priorities of western policy. Mr Gromyko will understand this if he tries for a moment to look at his own country through western eyes.

David Wood

A legacy of unfinished business

Nobody has made a neater comment on Mr Wilson's timing of his decision to retire as Prime Minister, I think, than one devoted minister who had no inkling what was going to happen when he entered the Cabinet room last Tuesday morning. "I knew nothing", he said. "But, then, nobody ever completely understands Harold unless he has read 300 short stories by O. Henry where the twist comes in the last line." Alas, apart from Lord Goodman, everybody thought Mr Wilson was writing a two-volume memoir of his life and times rather than a short story with a snap ending.

Certainly, repeated textual analysis of Mr Wilson's seven-page statement to the Cabinet, eked out with all the psychological insights that lie to hand, fails to bring to light a genuinely satisfactory reason for his choosing March 16 for the announcement. He had considered quitting, he said, last September, which means before the party conference and the opening of the new parliamentary session. The news would have been no less dumbfounding then, but at least it would have been, as they say, a natural break, as today is assuredly not. For by going in mid-Parliament he leaves behind him an inheritance of unfinished business that he originated and that will clap his successor into a straitjacket instead of dressing him in the loose mantle of the Prime Ministership.

An important part of the legacy he bequeaths, of course, is economic policy, from which there can be no escape and where there can be no fundamental variation. However much Mr Denis Healey explains his hardiness in entering the leadership contest by references to the eight hours a day he must now spend on budgetary preparation, the fact is that a Budget only a fortnight away has already been settled in essentials by the Prime Minister and the Chancellor. It will be a Wilson Budget as much as a Healey Budget. And half that Budget, the public expenditure projections, has already been rejected by the House of Commons, in spite of the technical vote of confidence in the Government that followed 24 hours later. On that Budget will depend the second year of voluntary incomes policy, which will be crucial to the whole economic strategy of the Government for the rest of the Parliament.

There are other items of unfinished business of the highest importance. The gathering crisis in central Africa, for example, where Mr Wilson might have been expected to want to be on hand to bring to completion the Rhodesian policy that he initiated in 1965 when Mr Ian Smith made his illegal declaration of independence. Or even the European summit at the beginning of April.

But the economic crisis alone, with a collapsed pound, continuing intolerable level of inflation, and unprecedentedly high postwar unemployment, is enough to give Mr Wilson's retirement an uncharacteristic air of flippancy and irresponsibility.

The mystery will continue to fascinate politicians of all parties for years. Meanwhile, it is more profitable to consider some of the consequences and the candidates. By the timing and the manner of his going Mr Wilson has done as much to open up the succession in Mr James Callaghan as the stricken Mr Macmillan did to ensure that the fourteenth Earl of Home would take over in autumn 1963. It is not only that he removed Mr Callaghan from the generation built by reminding the Cabinet and us all that Attlee, Churchill, Macmillan, and Home were all 60 years old or more when they went to 10 Downing Street.

It is also that he leaves at a time when a majority of the Parliamentary Labour Party, the constituency for a leadership ballot, may be expected to go for safety first: for continuity, for a consummate party manager who can straddle, as Mr Wilson himself did, the two wings of the PLP.

The short odds on Mr Callaghan, inside the PLP as much as at Ladbrokes, are above all to be accounted for by the fact that the choice of any other serious contender would involve a judgment on ideological as well as personality grounds. It is necessary to look beyond the first ballot, which will be declared next Thursday, to the second ballot fixed for the following Tuesday. At that point the transference of votes from favourite sons to others will begin, and will continue through the third and (if needed) fourth ballots. The polarization of votes will then be towards the party centre, where Mr Callaghan stands in a way that Mr Michael Foot and Mr Roy Jenkins, understandably, are reckoned not to do.

Mr Foot, who possibly could lead by a nose on the first ballot, like Aneurin Bevan before him, is not quite the darling of the left since he clothed himself in the responsibilities of party leadership and collective compromises, though his charm continues unabated and his heart is still considered by the left to pulse strong in the right place. If you like it strident and shapeless, his oratory has lost only half its wit and (to coin a phrase) emulsive vitriol, and that endears him to a House that is bored too often and too long by the Treasury bench. But he has lived too many years in the luxurious and self indulgent wilderness of the left to be accepted by the centre and right when the last votes go in. A final vote for him will have to be ideological.

Much the same is true of Mr Roy Jenkins. Nobody doubts his abilities, his integrity, his style, his potential capacity to tame non-Labour votes to the hand in any general election. But the left profoundly questions his brand of socialism; and, as with Mr Foot, his election would set off a train of party squabbles. No less certainly Mr Jenkins, who as the son of a Welsh miner, is the only 22-carat working-class candidate in sight, has offended the centre and a few Labour MPs on the right by what is called his elitism, his arrogance, and his elegance.

By contrast, Mr Callaghan, by his record, his personality, and his style, offers assurance that nothing much will change in the Government and the PLP during the next year or two, up to the next election. The party will be taken neither more right nor more left. Why, Mr Wilson might as well still be there.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Britain's role in southern Africa

From Mr Cyril D. Townsend, Conservative MP for Bexleyheath and Mr Peter Bottomley, Conservative MP for Greenwich, Woolwich West

Sir, We are puzzled by the number of your correspondents (Colonel J. R. Hall was the latest, March 16) who appear to believe that Communist aggression in southern Africa can best be checked by allying ourselves with Rhodesia and South Africa.

In our view Mr Smith is an obvious loser; at this stage it looks as if he will survive the next three months but not the next three years. The main challenge to him comes from black Rhodesian nationalist forces, and not Cubans or Russians. At issue in Rhodesia is a basic principle that no minority, be it of the left or the right, is entitled to dictate to the majority.

While it is easy for the British people to understand the predicament facing the white community in Rhodesia, and we have respect for their commercial and agricultural achievements, it would be playing the Russian game for Britain to give support to them.

It is in the interest of the western world that Mr Smith and Mr Nkomo should reach an early agreement over majority rule. It will then be in the interest of the western world to do everything possible to obtain a bloodless transition of power.

South Africa should also understand that her delaying tactics over the future of Namibia (south-west Africa) play straight into the hands of those who seek to destroy her.

Britain's role is clear. We must persuade our European partners to join us in giving aid, financial, technical and possibly military if it is asked for, to moderate African states such as Zambia, a Commonwealth country, and Zaire.

Africa should be one of Britain's main areas of influence. Black Africa is now of greater importance to us than white Africa and will become even more important in the 1980s. A new understanding of Africa is required. New links must be forged. We should all be doing far more to promote policies that can be supported throughout Africa as a whole.

Yours faithfully,
CYRIL D. TOWNSEND,
PETER BOTTOMLEY,
House of Commons.

Complaints against police

From Mr John Anscomb

Sir, The senior policemen who investigated my complaints against some of their colleagues in the Metropolitan Force last year were charming, and they did a lot of work. But I remain entirely dissatisfied with their investigation. Their report is secret and I am left with a grievance which has not been heard, let alone seen to have been heard.

It can be no advantage to the police to have members of the public as dissatisfied as I am. I have been driven to other channels. I answered a notice in your personal column with the result that some of my complaints have been aired in *The Sun* and on BBC's *Nationwide*, quite one-sidedly as the authorities refused to comment in either case. That is no help to the police and I still want an independent inquiry.

And pace Mr Gibbs-Smith (letters, March 15), the power the police have over us puts their wrongdoings in a quite different category from those of a negligent doctor of our own choosing.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN ANSCOMB,
Ashmansworth,
near Newbury, Berkshire.

Tax relief for commuters

From Mr G. S. Flint Gill

Sir, I sincerely hope that the Chancellor of the Exchequer will eschew the suggestion of Mr G. J. K. Widgery (letters, March 16) that tax relief should be given on the cost of travelling to work.

Everything possible should be done to encourage people to live near their place of work. The large amount of time and money expended in travelling long distances to work each day is wasteful, both materially and socially. Surely one of the main reasons why the railways are not economically viable today is the vast amount of capital equipment which is used for such short periods at the beginning and end of each working day. What is needed is on the one hand to make it easier and less expensive for people to move house so as to be able to live closer to their jobs, and on the other hand to make it advantageous to employers to situate their factories and offices near their work force.

I take great exception to Mr Widgery's claim that his suggestion "would benefit all sections of the working population". How would it benefit the miner who walks to the pit each day, or the textile worker who lives near the mill? On the contrary, they would be worse off, since they (and others) would have to pay additional taxes to balance the enormous cost to the exchequer of such a concession. One man's tax relief is another man's tax burden.

Yours faithfully,
G. S. FLINT GILL,
1 Steeple Close, Wimbledon, SW19.

Danish sex revue

From Mr Clifford Williams

Sir, In your issue of March 13, Clive Barnes gives an account of the theatre in Copenhagen that singles out for special praise a "sex revue" staged by the director of the Royal Danish Ballet. Although it features nude ballet numbers, it is not (Mr Barnes tells us) "simply another *Oh! Calcutta!*" No, it is something different and better; and to illustrate how different he describes a "sinister but typical" sketch by Eugène Ionesco, entitled *Striptease*, which is performed in the show.

I feel Mr Barnes and your readers should be informed that M Ionesco's sketch was commissioned for—and received its world première in—the Paris production of *Oh! Calcutta!*, which I directed.

Yours sincerely,
CLIFFORD WILLIAMS,
42 Onslow Square, SW7.

Soviet threat to the West

From General Sir Walter Walker

Sir, May I crave the courtesy of your available space to give you the military point of view on the letters from Dr Christoph Bertram and Mr Keith Kyle published on March 18? I do so with my experience as a former Nato Commander-in-Chief and one who has kept abreast of latest developments.

I can assure your readers that what General Hackett said in 1967 was a gross understatement compared to the grave situation that exists today. Deployed on the ground this very moment are vastly superior Warsaw Pact ground and air forces which are immediately available and immediately usable in key areas, capable of striking with "hell for leather" speed, with little or no warning under surprise conditions "off the march"—that is without prior concentration of forces—under the guise of manoeuvres and exercises, and at the same time blinding us with their electronic warfare capability.

With their "meat-grinder" tactics they will crunch their way forward, regardless of casualties, at a speed of 70 miles a day, supported in depth by airborne troops, armed helicopters, air attack, amphibious attack on the flanks, and chemical attack. Their doctrine regards the tactical use of chemical weapons as a normal form of conventional warfare, and in this field they are better militarily equipped and psychologically prepared than any other country in the world.

The speed, devastating power and velocity of the Soviet onslaught will be such that Nato will not be able to resort to the use of their tactical nuclear weapons, for the simple reason that there will not be sufficient time for the necessary political decisions to be taken. In any case, the missile sites will already have been overrun. It would be surprising if the Soviet general staff did not know the number and location of every nuclear bomb site in Western Europe.

Dr Bertram's lack of knowledge is apparent through his lack of experience, particularly in the realm of the responsibility of high command.

Yours faithfully,
WALTER WALKER,
Former Commander-in-Chief, Allied Forces Northern Europe,
East Lambrook Farm,
South Petherton,
Somerset,
March 19.

From Mr Hugh Hanning

Sir, Mr Levin takes to task the critics of Solzhenitsyn and adds: "But the people know better". All the experience of our committee supports this view. One recent opinion poll conducted on our behalf in several of the poorest districts of London showed that, while few people knew anything about Nato, when told it was "a defensive military alliance against Communism", a massive majority opposed cutting our contribution to it—more than seven in one. Thirty-seven per cent thought our contribution should be increased; and this was before the Thatcher speech—which a Russian official described to me as "electioneering"—and before the Angola take-over.

We do not claim any precision for these figures; but taken in conjunction with another similar poll a few months earlier, which reached almost exactly the same conclusion, they indicate a very strong dislike of Communism; and they suggest that the British public is ready both to pay the full price of collective security and to respond to comprehensible leadership.

Once our policymakers have belatedly grasped this, the question is: leadership in what direction? Lord Gladwyn pointed the way on Thursday; while rightly insisting on adequate military security, he also spoke of the need to win the moral battle in the countries of the Third World, significantly adding: ". . . in as far as they escape from Muscovite propaganda". This is surely the challenge we face today; the battle between Communism and the democracies for the hearts and minds of the developing nations.

The Atlantic Community of 15 democracies remains, with all its imperfections, the guardian of human liberty in the world; and let us not be ashamed to say so. Let us not, likewise, be slow to advertise the contrasting suppression of liberty, in defiance of the Helsinki Final Act, by the Soviet Union. Let the peoples of the southern half of the world—and not just their governments—be told what the Communists of France and Italy have now had to acknowledge in public; that Russia is the enemy of individual freedom. At present, outside Europe, this seems to be a well-kept secret.

But hearts must be won as well as minds. Besides telling the truth about Russia, the West also needs to mount a programme for the Third World comparable to the Marshall initiative of 30 years ago. How this can best be done has been the focus of a series of top-level seminars we have been holding with the English Speaking Union, the first of which will be published this week. Such a bold enterprise could expect to encounter difficulties; but public opposition would not be one of them. The people know better.

Yours, etc,
HUGH HANNING, Director,
British Atlantic Committee,
36 Craven Street, WC2.
March 21.

A school's identity

From Mrs D. Leach and Mr J. Miles

Sir, The Headmaster of The Hulme Grammar School expresses his amazement at the intensity of feeling among parents against the present system of secondary education, and goes on to specify the attributes of a good education: "structured, disciplined, academic." We should like to carry on further from another sector of the front.

Certainly parents in London, from a range of background which is an egalitarian's dream, seem to search with increasing desperation for such an education for their children. We suspect that they in fact rate the first two qualities ahead of the third, and are right to do so in the sense that an able child ought to flourish, given good teaching, in a structured and disciplined setting; or, equally, ought a less able child.

But there is a further necessary ingredient of a good school, which perhaps embraces all three, and which is summed up in the word "identity". If everyone concerned—teachers, parents, children—can feel an identity with a school, it will be a good one.

The Parents' Association at this school have sensed this clearly enough in take legal action to try to protect the school's identity. The irony is that we are all quite ready to fit in with "the present system". The fight is not for academic selection. We hope and think that academic standards would not disappear if the entry became non-selective and SMGS developed into a comprehensive school at its present size, but precious though we hold these standards to be they are not the priority. The fight is for the retention of the school's identity.

A High Court judge has stated that the parents have a substantial case for claiming that the school's identity would be lost if it were merged into a large comprehensive school.

The response of the Inner London Education Authority, as you reported on Friday, has been to decide in principle to take steps to close the school if the legal action is not called off. In one sense this seems fair enough. They have placed themselves in a position where professional judges are no longer needed.

Yours faithfully,
DAPHNE LEACH,
J. MILES,
Parents' Association,
St Marylebone Grammar School,
Marylebone Road, NW1.

The British Library

From Mr Iain Stevenson

Sir, Mr John Stewart Collis's paean of praise to the Reading Room of the British Museum falls upon the rather deaf ears of those who regularly use the British Library Reference Division. Deaf because the elegance of Panizzi's Dome is equalled only by its quality as an amplifier in increasing the range and intensity of any sound produced therein, from the quietest turning of a page to the rhythmic thump-rustle-thump of general catalogue consultation. To those used to other national libraries, the BM Reading Room is noisy, over-heated, not too well lit and the stack service (two days if you request something stored at Woolwich) is dreadful.

The Bibliothèque Nationale in Paris (arguably more elegant in the Grande Salle if you like Deuxième Empire grandeur) is an oasis of quietude by comparison and they manage to deliver almost anything within half an hour, even at the busiest periods. I for one can hardly wait till the British Library is all housed under one roof on its new Somerstown site, and a new scientifically sound-proofed reading room will enable one to complete one's work without either falling asleep from a combination of hear and lack of oxygen, or being totally distracted by a wave of sound reminiscent of the Rangers' end at Hampden Park.

Yours sincerely,
IAIN STEVENSON,
Department of Geography,
University College London,
Gower Street, WC1.
March 19.

From Mr Will Dennis

Sir, Perhaps more people would care about the British Museum Reading Room if they were allowed to use it.

I write not as one who was refused a reader's ticket, but who was told on preliminary application that I had no chance of being given one unless I could produce a recommendation from an academic stating my course of research; and the particular books wanted. Not being a student any more, alas, I gave up at that stage. Naturally I appreciate that some kind of check on numbers must be kept, but I should have thought that references as to character would have sufficed.

I am afraid I am unable to see why ratefiad academic study should be the sole raison d'être of the British Museum Reading Room.

A somewhat more sensible approach is adopted by the Victoria and Albert Museum Library, where readers' tickets are required, but occasional reading is permitted without a ticket. I may be wrong—I hope I am—but I think I am right in saying that this latter system is not in operation at the British Museum.

Incidentally, who recommended Karl Marx?

Yours faithfully,
WILL DENNIS,
137 King Henry's Road, NW3.

Malory manuscript

From Mr Michael Custance

Sir, The reports in *The Times* and *The Sunday Times* of the prospective sale of the Malory MS prompt me to ask whether the affair is being allowed sufficient public scrutiny. My sole connexion with Winchester College is the tenuous one of having friends who were educated and a son who teaches there, but there is surely a general interest in the question mentioned by Wendy Hughes of the propriety of an institution like the college selling such a possession.

And is it not even more surely of general interest to know whether the British Library will finance the purchase, directly or effectively, out of public moneys? If this should be the case perhaps the taxpayer might query whether he or she wishes to spend £500,000, not to preserve the MS from sale abroad, but simply to remove it from a perfectly appropriate sanctuary and in so doing make a donation (it would seem) to parents sending their sons to the college.

Yours faithfully,
MICHAEL CUSTANCE,
The Patch, Lodsworth,
Petworth,
Sussex,
March 17.

Devolution: no risk of disorder

From the General Secretary of the Scottish Labour Party

Sir, The extraordinary lengths of fearful imagination to which opponents of Scottish Home Rule will go are well shown in some of the remarks made in Edinburgh by Professor John Erickson, reported in your issue yesterday (March 10).

Professor Erickson delivers dire warnings (according to your report) of the violence and instability in the direction Scottish politics is taking, and says that "The problem will not be to patrol the sea lanes of the North Sea but to keep order in Princes Street and Sauchiehall Street", prophesying that "lethal military organizations would surface and probably survive after independence".

There is not the slightest evidence in present Scottish politics to support this fantasy. So far as organised politics go, all parties favouring some degree of Scottish independence have made it clear that they envisage the transfer of power by peaceful, orderly, and democratic means; those who may claim to take the aims of devolution really seriously, the SNP and the Scottish Labour Party, have never flirted with violence in any form as a means to their objectives. So far as the Scottish public in general is concerned, it can be said that we have been much more fortunate than other parts of the British Isles in avoiding the rise of political violence which has occurred in the past decade.

There is no reason whatever to believe that a Scotland managing its own affairs will be less peaceful, both in bringing about reforms at home that are needed and in its part in the world community than the Scandinavian countries which in so many ways afford us a useful model.

Yours sincerely,
ALEX NEIL,
General Secretary of the Scottish Labour Party,
12 Waterloo Street,
Glasgow.

Day of prayer for Ulster

From Fr Brocard Sewell

Sir, Your court circular page of today, March 19, announces that Tuesday in Holy Week, April 13, is to be observed as a day of prayer for Northern Ireland in many churches of all denominations. The announcement does not say by whose authority this is enacted. In the absence of this information one cannot be sure what is the organizers' precise intention. Presumably they do not really expect that as a result of this day of prayer some divine intervention will suddenly sort out and bring to an end the evil caused by misdirected human wills. There is little evidence that things happen thus. Perhaps it is intended, or at least hoped, that those who take part in the day of prayer will seek light and strength that will give them the courage and determination actually to do *something*, something "costing" (as Baron von Hügel would say), that will advance the cause of peace in Ireland, in however small or gradual a way.

If, when the day of prayer is over, a substantial number of concerned people have deepened their concern for the divided people of Northern Ireland, to the extent of continuing their prayers for Ireland and of supporting, or continuing to support, one or other of the many admirable bodies engaged in active work in the furtherance of tolerance and understanding, and the end of violence; and if Roman Catholic bishops and clergy in England will try and convince their opposite numbers in Northern Ireland of the need for broader educational policies, and modifications to certain aspects of current canonical discipline in the matter of "mixed marriage", then it will at least be seen that the day of prayer has been something more than a ritual form.

Yours sincerely,
BROCARD SEWELL,
Whitefriars School,
Charlton Kings,
Cheltenham.

Mr Wilson's successor

From Mr S. C. Pearce

Sir, I always thought the Labour Party believed in the good old British way of conducting elections—first past the post and no silly nonsense.

Yours faithfully,
S. C. PEARCE,
21 Roseacre Lane,
Bearsted,
Maidstone,
Kent.

From Mr Nial Charlton

Sir, It is interesting, is it not, that both the Left candidates for Prime Minister are the children of privilege, and that neither has lived and worked in any industrial district.

Yours,
NIAL CHARLTON,
Willow Green,
Little Leigh,
Nr Northwich,
Cheshire.

From Mr Matthew Norgate

Sir, How to pronounce Callaghan, asks Mrs Audrey Pearson (March 20). Those who bear that name call it "Callah'n". The fact that one so often hears it pronounced "Callahann" on the air is probably a hangover from the days when news-readers and reporters, such was the standard of BBC articulation, used to speak of Aneurin Bevan as "Mr Bevann" to distinguish him from Ernest Bevin, even when the latter was not in the context.

Neither politician ever came to the rescue, or even protested, as far as I know. Perhaps Mr Callaghan will if he gets to No 10, or if he has by the time you print this, if you do. But celebrities are often unhelpful in such matters. I once asked Barbara Stanwyck, the film star, how to pronounce her name, and she said, "Aw, just say Barbara".

I have the honour to be, Sir,
your obedient servant,
MATTHEW NORGATE,
Savage Club,
9 Fitzmaurice Place,
Berkeley Square, W1.

A Times Profile

The Archbishop of Westminster

A man of God, and of doubt

Westminster Abbey will open its doors oext Thursday evening to welcome the newly consecrated Archbishop of Westminster, Basil Hume, to a service of Latin Vespers. Even 20 years ago such an event would have shocked the English nation: a hundred years ago there would have been riots in the streets of London.

Today such news raises hardly an eyebrow. This may be a measure of English indifference to religion in the preseot age, but it may be something else. The appointment of the new man to Westminster has captured the pupular imagination, and few ecclesiastical matters io recent years have received as much attention, before or after, as this one.

The archbishop's simple journey from the Roman Catholic cathedral at one end of Victoria Street to the Anglican abbey at the other symbolizes the beginning of somethiog new in the loog and painful story of the English and the Roman Church, which is somethiog the English seem instinctively to understand and accept.

Henry VIII's Reformatioo and its bloodthirsty consequence in persecution and counter-persecution left scars which have been 400 years in healing. The progress made by Catholic emancipation in the first half of the nineteenth century was almost brought to nothing by the arrogaot and offensive manner in which the English hierarchy was established in 1850. It would be hard to the first Archbishop of Westmioster, Cardinal Wiseman, to call him tactless, and kinder still not to call his successor, Cardinal Manning, a bigot. Someone sarcastically called the new hierarchy the Italian missioo to the Irish. Altogether, the Roman Catholic presence io Britain was scarcely regarded as an asset: more an irritation to be tolerated by tha tolerant and resented by the English governing establishment.

The crowniog insult, after Wisemon's extravagant and insensitive pastoral letter in 1850, after the excesses of the most Papist of the Papists in their campaign for a definition of Papal Infallibility, after the diplomatic turmoil surroundiog Italian affairs and the questioo of the Papal States—Manning declared that the temporal power of the Pope was a theological certainty—came in 1896. A Romao decree condemned ordinatioo in the Church of England as utterly defective and invalid; henceforth the clergy of the Established church—the soiritual backbone of Vicmrian Eogland, were to be regarded as laymen, and heretics to boot.

The first half of the twentieth century brought gradual and hardly perceptible changes, but not eoough to prepare the Roman Catholic community for the Second Vatican Council's radically different conception of the church.

Thus the office of Archbishop of Westmiaster has behind it a difficult history. It was the achievement of Cardioal Heenan to gain far it, against these odds, a secure if slightly ambiguous place in the affections of the nation. The men before him—Vaughan, Bourne, Hinsley, Griffin, and Godfrey—made little impact, though Hinsley is still remembered for his devotion to the national cause duriog the Secood World War. So the modern archbishopric is very much Cardinal Heenan's personal creation, and the institutions which surround it reflects every quirk in his stroog and unusual persooality. The death of Cardinal Heenan last year marked the end of the era begun in 1850, the end of a way of doing business founded on the glorificatioo of authority and ohedieoce, the blinder the more virtuous. The wheel bas turned, and Heenan leads oo to Hume.

The Abbot of Ampleforth, as every newspaper reader and television viewer now knows, plays squash, supports Newcastle United, and did oot want the job. Ampleforth suited bim—it has its own squash courts, but more importantly it embodies a tradition of Catholicism rather removed from the style set by Wiseman and Manning. The Benedictines have been arooud a long time—St Augustine, who arrived oo these shores in 597 AD was one of them, Westminster Abbey was one of their houses. The history of these islands would scarcely have been the same without them. Driven out by Henry VIII, they drifted back, opening oew mooasteries, founding schools, mindiog their own business, and praying aod singing together io their own hauntingly beautiful music called plainsong.

George Hume—who later took the monastic name of Basil—wanted to be a priest by the time be was nine or ten. He was the third child of the marriage of an army surgeon and the daughter of a distinguished French military family who had met duriog the First World War and who set up house in Newcastle, his mother a pious Freoch Catholic and his father a reserved and upright agnostic whose God, if be had one, was Mural Integrity. In spite of the servants, aod the assumptioo that "as a matter of course" his sons would go to public school, the late Sir William Hume influenced George by his open-mioded classlessoess.

It is customary to refer to bishops and archbishops, Aoglican and Roman Catholic, by the courtesy titles of "My Lord" and "Your Grace", as if consecratioo admits them to the elevated ranks of the aristocracy. Father Basil does not know what he wants to be called: somethiug in him makes him want to eschew such titles, to go on being plain Father Basil, to emphasize his equality with the rest of mankind. It is, perhaps, a touch of his fatber about him, and a touch of Newcastle.

The same iofluence opened his eyes to what was happeoing in Newcastle in the twenties and thirties. He remembers seeing boys of his own age, barefoot and cropped-beaded, playing in the streets, and Catholic women coveriog their beads at Mass with their busbaods' cloth caps, having uo headwear of their own. He remembers accompanyiog a Dominican priest who befriended him at the age of 10 to visit the poorer parts of Tyneside. He wanted to be a Domioican, to work amoog socb people.

At Ampleforth College, attached to tbe Abbey and staffed by the monks, he switched the object of his intentions from the Dominicans to the Benedictines, for the Beoedictines also worked among the poor io the many oorthern iodustrial parishes tbey ran. By the time he was old enough to join the order, though, he had another choice to make: it was 1941, and he could have joined the war. He had, he said when we discussed this last week, a rather romantic view of his calling, and imagioed bimself sharing the sufferings of the people io a bombed-out or even enemy-occupied Britain. He chose the Abbey, and was therefore automatically exempt from service. Looking back, he rather regrets it.

The public school life, both as a boy and later as a housemaster and teacher, gave him a taste for physical exercise and competition, hnt it was a sheltered life and Father Basil sees himself as rather immature in bis late teens and early twenties. Tbe reasoo he became a monk were not the reasons he stayed, be said: he came to those better reasons later.

Iostead of the army—or more probably the navy—be began to study for the priesthood. Ampleforth maiotains a bouse, St Benet's Hall, in Oxford (which oo doubt explains why no fewer than 38 of the present Ampleforth monks are Masters of Arts), and it was there that he studied history for his first degree.

From Oxfurd Father Basil went to Friboorg io Switzerland to study for a licentiate in theology, his superiors no doubt calculating that his fluency in French would be a little help. French is more than a second language for him, for it had been the language of family life, at least with his mother. To this day, he says, he would not address her in anything else.

Ordained and qualified, the young Father Basil was not then sent to work in the slums of Liverpool as he had once hoped, bnt put to work to teach modern languages to the boys and dogmatic tbeology to junior monks, and to coach the school rugby team. He recalls 40 boys crowding into his room as bousemaster to watch *Top of the Pops*, while be studied Aquinas in one corner, trying to grasp ooe of the proofs of the existence of God.

From bousemaster to abbot io 1963 was his first and only step up the ecclesiastical ladder until a phone call from the apostolic delegate two months ago told him he was called to higher things. It was not what he wanted to hear.

His reaction to his appointment might at first sight seem like false modesty, in the manner of the traditional and nominal struggle of an MP elected to be Speaker. But it is uodoubtedly sincere—the appointment did indeed cause him considerable personal distress. Even after be said he was willing, his mind was plagued by doubts and misgivings. These were put to rest only by the Pope, with whom he had a private talk in Rome two weeks ago. It was a conversation—in some ways more like a confession—that moved, warmed, and encouraged the new archbishop immeoosely.

He does not come to Westminster with a suitcase full of easy answers. He bas been appointed because of what he is, not *what ha stands for*. He is, first of all, a man of God: but secoodly, he is a mao of doubt. Surrounded by all the certainties of monastic life, Abbot Hume weot through periods of darkness and uncertainty: doubt and despair have had him on the rack more than once. He was pulled towards agnosticism, and pulled back agaio to faith.

Monks in bis community would come to tbeir abbot seeking reassurance and security, only to find that he shared their agonies himself. One of his greatest gifts is the ability to put another person at ease, to make him feel important, the object of Father Basil's whole attention. So be is easy to talk to, easy to coofide in, and he reciprocates with confidences of his own. His secret therefore, is to recognize and identify with another's thoughts and feelings, to offer fallow-feeling—to comfort someone's loneliness, for instance, by disclosing his own, so that each can learn something from the other.

Father Basil was almost unknown in London clerical circles until his name popped out of a Catholic Information Office press release a month ago. It was revealing to observe bow quickly sceptics—and cynics—were cooverted to the idea of him once tbey had met him.

Theologically, be beloogs to the traditioo of Newman. He sees the Catholic faith not as a given set of infallible propositions but as a flowiog river, always in motioo and fed by tributaries large and small. On aoother analogy, the Roman Catbolic Cburcb has left the safe harbour in which it was ridiog at anchor and set forth on a voyage into the unknown, through whatever storms there are to come. One of bis few certainties is that the barque is unsinkable, whatever else might happen to it. Tha Second Vatican Council represented the passage through the harbour mouth, and for him like so many priests educated in the forties and fifties or before, it was a traumatic experieoce, almost a moment of rebirth.

The psychological strains on a Roman Catholic priest oowadays are considerable, aod not least of these is the vocation of celibacy. Traditionally, most priests coped with it by maintaining a certain distance from the rest of mankind, a psychological moat and ditch defence which kept everyone at bay, and bence prevented the beginning of close personal relationships with members of the opposita sex. This, it would be fair to say, was an expedient rather than an ideal: a priest takes Christ as his model, and the modern view of Christ is of a warm and eveo passionate individual, without barriers to anyone. Moving towards the ideal means moving away from a defensive view of celibacy: it means living with far greater tension.

Father Basil describes himself as a man with an affectionate nature, who gets oo well with most of the people he meets, and who is, he admits quite frankly, attracted to women. Ask him about love, and he talks about the core of his circle of friends he is closest to, including female friends; and he naturally goes on to talk about celibacy, and even about suffering. One feels be knows about heartbreak.

His advice, to priests, he said, was to behave towards women friends as a mature man who was head over heels in love with his own wife would treat them never wanting to do anything to hurt or betray himself. That draws the line at physical sex, but gives considerable freedom to the emotions. Sexual attraction itsalf comes from God—"I can argue that theologically", be insisted—and the beauty of a woman can be a symbol of the divine, for she is made in the image of God.

His attitude to bomosexuality must surely be one of the most tolerant and compassionate of any Roman Catholic leader in Britain, and be obviously found the receot Vatican declaration oo this aod other aspects of sexual ethics a bit disappointiog. It is oot as illiberal as people seem to think when looked at closely, be maintains. In issuiog such statements, the Vatican bas a salutary role of bringing people up with a start, shocking them with a firm reminder of traditional Christian ideals. "Please make it clear that I am a loyal son of the church", be asked. "I accept the teaching of the church."

And yet he does not make it quite clear what to him is this teaching, whether it is to be found in Vatican declarations and Papal encyclicals, or also perhaps more diffusely in the experieoce and day-to-day practice of the church at large, including laymen and women. All is not cut and dried—"We desperately need a new theology of sex."

The Roman Catholic style, hitherto, has not been to ask pertinent questions but to hand over a ready-made package of answers: to admit that a question is difficult is to admit that there might be more than one approach. Abbot Hume admits thar abortioo is a difficult question. He might, indeed take on Cardinal Heenan's mantle as hammer of the abortionists without a moment's hesitation. But he also says he cannot stand campaigning by slogans, and that he wishes to be regarded more as a spoken man than a man who leads by personal charisma.

This approach is fine in an abbot, but how well will it work in the rough and tumble of newspaper headlines and mass demonstrations? "The church is so riddled with *tensions* and problems at the moment", he said, "that any one man who says he can give final answers to these problems is deluding himself. I really hope to be able to call on the best minds to guide me in forming my attitudes and statements that I should be expected to make. I don't see myself as a great person, I see myself far more as a member of a team."

He gave me another reason for his singing the Latin office in Westminster Abbey oex Thursday, which will please most of all the Catholics of the Wiseman-Manning tradition, those who have found the Second Vatican Council the hardest to take. Apart from his demonstration of brotherly love for the Church of Eogland, be wished to strike a blow for the Latin liturgy. He wished to show that those who are pining after the Trideotine Mass, those who feel something very important in Roman Catholicism was betrayed when it was abolished, have oow an ally and a friend at Westminster.

Clifford Longley

Religious Affairs Correspondeot

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Traditional costumes of Spain.

Costumes play a great part in Spain's way of life.

The traveller today will be struck by the pride which the Spanish take in their traditions and the joy with which they react to their centuries-old music.

You will see both of these portrayed in the gay and fiery dresses of dancers celebrating their romerias, ferias and fiestas, their processions and passion plays; by the simple and modish riding costumes of their caballeros and horse-women trained over generations to sit proud and graceful in their saddles, and by the 'penitentes' of the Semana Santa—an emotional reminder of the origins of the occasion.

But acquiring an equally traditional role are the costumes which the visitor will see throughout this vast and varied country. These are worn by the underwater fishermen of the Costa Brava, by the skiers in the Pyrenees and Sierra Nevada (to name but two of the many skiing localities); by the golfers throughout the country, by lovers of sun and sea and by the sporting fishermen of the Asturias and Galicia.

Join them this year in Spain.

Spain of contrast

The Spanish National Tourist Office,
70 Jermyn Street, London SW1

COURT CIRCULAR

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
March 20: The Duke of Edinburgh this afternoon opened the Aberdeen and North East Society for the Deaf Centre in Aberdeen.

Having been received upon arrival by the Lord Provost of Aberdeen (Councillor R. S. Lennox), His Royal Highness toured the building and unveiled a commemorative plaque.

Major Henry Hugh Smith was in attendance.

The Queen will present new colours to the 1st and 2nd Battalions, Coldstream Guards at Windsor Castle on April 30.

The funeral service for the Hon Mrs William McGowan will take place at 11.30 am tomorrow in the Guards Chapel, Wellington Barracks, followed by private burial at Shipton Moyne.

The medal of the Society of Cymmrodorion awarded to Sir Ben Bowen Thomas and to Dr Thomas Parry will be presented at a ceremony at the National Library of Wales, Aberystwyth, on Saturday.

A memorial service, conducted by the Bishop of Stepney, will be held for Stanley J. D. Berger, at St Paul's Church, Stoke Newington Road, London, N16, on Wednesday, April 7, at 8 pm.

Birthdays today

Lord Alport, 64; Brigadier Sir Douglas Crawford, 72; the Right Rev Dr E. B. Henderson, 66; Admiral of the Fleet Sir Caspar John, 73; Sir William Lindsay, 89; Mr Nicholas Monsarrat, 66; Lady (Frederick) Ogilvie, 76; Mr Paul Rogers, 59; Lord Stokes, 62.

Marriages

Dr H. Gill and Miss C. Hunt

The marriage took place on Saturday in the Lady Chapel of Westminster Cathedral of Dr Herbert Gill, son of Mr and Mrs Jack Gill, of California, and Miss Charlotte Hunt, daughter of Sir John Hunt and the late Hon Mrs Hunt, of Parkside, Wimbledon. The Right Rev Basil Hume, OSB, officiated.

The bride, who was given in marriage by her father, wore a gown of champagne-coloured silk chiffon embroidered with peach flowers. She was attended by Marie-Louise and Kate Hunt, and Mr Jerome Stedman was best man.

A reception was held at the home of the bride.

Mr L. F. McCredie and Miss K. L. Frank

The marriage took place on Saturday at the parish church, Waltham St Lawrence, Berkshire, of Mr Ian Forbes McCredie, eldest son of Mr and Mrs J. H. McCredie, of The Farthingales, Maidenhead, and Miss Katharine Lucy Frank, younger daughter of Sir Robert Frank, of Ruscombe End, Waltham St Lawrence, and of Angela Lady Frank, of Brompton-by-Sawdon, Yorkshire. The Rev Peter Radley officiated.

The bride, who was given in marriage by her father, wore a gown of white organza, trimmed with guipure lace. Her veil was held in place by a diamond tiara and she carried a bouquet of roses, freesias and lilies-of-the valley. Her sister, Mrs V. Bairstow, and Miss Tina Hammond attended her. Mr John Williams was best man.

A reception was held at the home of the bride and the honeymoon will be spent in Paris.

Mr P. Havers and Miss F. Searle

The marriage took place on Saturday at Holy Trinity Church, Bosham, Chichester, Sussex, of Mr Philip Havers, elder son of Sir Michael Havers, QC, MP, and Lady Havers, of White Shutters, Ousden, Newmarket, and Miss Patricia Searle, youngest daughter of Mr and Mrs Sidney Searle, of Tideways, Bosham. The Rev W. D. Marsden-Jones officiated.

The bride, who was given in marriage by her father, wore an organza gown with a matching veil and carried a bouquet of arum lilies. She was attended by Duncan, Anna and Kate Farquhar Thomson and Melissa Green. Mr Nigel Havers was best man.

A reception was held at the home of the bride and the honeymoon will be spent in France and Italy.

Forthcoming marriages

Mr J. P. Campbell and Miss M. P. Knudsen

The engagement is announced between Jeremy, elder son of Mr and Mrs Philip Campbell, of Brook, Wisborough Green, Sussex, and Petra, only daughter of Mr and Mrs Ottar Knudsen, of Immingham, Lincolnshire.

Mr J. B. Commock and Miss S. E. Pelham Burn

The engagement is announced between John Blair, elder son of the late John Commock and of Mrs Commock, of Glasgow, and Sarah, daughter of Major and Mrs I. M. Pelham Burn, of Eleuge Flat, Colgate, Sussex.

Dr M. W. Eaton and Miss J. M. Borrowdale

The engagement is announced between Mark William, only son of the late Mr B. J. Eaton and Mrs Eaton, of Cheltenham, Gloucestershire, and Jennifer Margaret, only daughter of Mr and Mrs D. G. Borrowdale, of Disley, Cheshire.

Mr N. J. Fairley and Miss J. Osborne

The engagement is announced between Lieutenant Neil J. Fairley, Royal Horse Artillery, son of Mr and Mrs A. Fairley, Lynwood, Kirkliston Road, South Queensferry, and Joanna Osborne, only daughter of Mr and Mrs J. F. S. Osborne, Castle Cottage, Kirkton Manor, Peeblesshire.

Mr A. R. Graham and Miss J. B. Hodgson

The engagement is announced between Andrew Ross, son of Dr and Mrs S. H. Graham, of White Gate Lodge, Llandaff, Cardiff, and Judith Beatrice, daughter of Mr and Mrs A. G. S. Hodgson, of Geerings, Warnham, Horsham, Sussex.

Mr A. G. Meredith and Miss H. A. Carter

The engagement is announced between Anthony, younger son of the late Charles T. Meredith, CBE, and Mrs E. Meredith, of Surrenden Road, Brighton, and Heather, elder daughter of the late David R. Carter, MBE, MA, of Northease Manor, Lewes, and Mrs Joanna Carter, of Priory Crescent, Lewes.

Mr A. J. Morbey and Miss A. E. Critchley

The engagement is announced between Anthony, only son of Mr and Mrs D. O. A. Morbey, of Stunney Hall, Cambridgeshire, and Alison, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs E. G. Critchley, of Manor Farm, Dravtoo Parslow, Buckinghamshire.

Herr E. Riis-Johannessen and Miss J. D. Collin

The engagement is announced between Bjorn, eldest son of Herr and Fru Riis-Johannessen, of Oslo, Norway, and Jacqueline Diana, second daughter of Major-General and Mrs G. de E. Collin, of Claxton Hall, York.

Mr M. A. Wood and Miss S. N. Lloyd-Thomas

The engagement is announced between Michael, only son of Wing Commander C. A. Wood, RAF (retd), and Mrs C. A. Wood, of Greenfield House, Boxley, Kent, and Sandra, second daughter of Mr and Mrs D. Lloyd-Thomas, of Lidwells House, Goudhurst, Kent.

Luncheon

Modern Language Association

The Modern Language Association welcomed Sir Christopher Soames, their president for 1976, at a luncheon held in the Waterside Restaurant at the Festival Hall on Saturday. Among the guests were:

Mr Peter Hoy, vice-president, Miss Mary Glasgow, chairman of the Institute of Linguists, Mr George Mann, Director of the Festival Hall, and Mr Colin Williams.

Service dinner

No 1 (County of Hertford) Maritime Headquarters Unit, RAAF

Officers of No 1 (County of Hertford) Maritime Headquarters Unit, Royal Auxiliary Air Force, held a dining night at their headquarters at Valency House, Northwood, on Saturday. The commanding officer, Wing Commander P. L. Harris, welcomed the guests, who included Air Chief Marshal Sir Neil Cameron and Air Commodore and Alderman the Hon Peter Vanneck.

Service reunion

Women's Royal Army Corps Association

A reunion of the Women's Royal Army Corps Association was held at the Victory Services Club on Saturday. The deputy Controller Commandant, Colonel L. M. Davies, was the guest of honour.

Silver sale expected to set new record

By Philip Howard

Christie's are to hold a one-day sale of historic European silver in Geneva on April 27, which experts predict will break the world record for a silver sale, £836,000, achieved by Christie's last November, also in Geneva.

As on that occasion, the most notable treasure on sale is by Thomas Germain, France's greatest silversmith. It is a pair of Louis XV tureens, covers, and stands, made between 1744 and 1750, and enriched with vegetables, crabs, and crayfish.

Examples of the work of Thomas Germain (1673-1748) are exceedingly rare. For two important works to come up for sale within six months of each other is highly unusual.

Most of his work has vanished. Germain first studied in the studio of Boulogne; in 1688 he was sent by Louvois to the French Academy in Rome. He then apprenticed himself to an Italian smith, and received commissions from Cosimo III, Grand Duke of Tuscany.

He returned to France in 1706 and was appointed goldsmith and sculptor to Louis XIV. Germain became the principal supplier of silver to the King, as well as receiving orders from Russia, Portugal, Spain and Germany.

Silver by the finest antique craftsmen of the rest of Europe and Russia has been assembled for the sale. Another curious French piece is a silver-gilt tea, coffee, and toilet "service de voyage" made by Martin-Guillaume Biennais to the order of the Emperor Napoleon as a present for his wife, Marie-Louise. A library lamp by Biennais, also made for Napoleon, fetched £34,545 last November.

One of a pair of silver soup tureens by Thomas Germain.

German silver includes "The Hamburg Baker's Cup", by Friedericb Friederichs, which was presented by three Hamburg bakers to their guild in 1664. The cup is delightfully decorated with an engraving of the three bakers ot the presentation ceremony.

Photographic records: World record prices for photographs were set at the sale of photographic images and related material at Sotheby's Belgravia on Friday.

An American dealer paid £1,600 for a portrait of Sir John Herschel at his home, Collingwood, taken in 1867 by Julia Margaret Cameron. It is the highest price paid for a single Cameron. An American collector paid £1,000 for R. Fenton's photograph of Rivaulx Abbey, looking north, taken in 1854 or 1855.

£130,000 Ming vase: At Sotheby Parke Bernet, New York, on Saturday, a sale of fine Chinese archaic bronzes, ceramics and works of art realized a total of $897,765 (about £448,900), compared to an estimate of $784,000. The top price of $260,000 (about £130,000) was paid for a rare Ming polychrome jar Kuan bearing the Chia Ching mark.

The vase was bought by the vendors in a Philadelphia antique shop for $150 in the late 1940s and was bought on Saturday by Eskanazi, a London dealer.

A very rare pair of bronze, Fang Ting, rectangular vessels, of the eleventh century BC fetched $85,000 (about £42,500). A well modelled large glazed pottery figure of a horse of the Tang dynasty made $57,500 (about £28,700) to Eskanazi.

Parliamentary diary

House of Commons

Monday, March 15: Statement on Stationery Office delivery drivers dispute. Development Land Tax Bill: Opposition amendment rejected by 293 votes to 258 and Bill read second time. Motion on Local Loans (Increase of Limit) Order carried by 111 votes to 7. Adjournment debate about Bermingham horticultural market. House adjourned 11.56 pm.

Tuesday, March 16: Transport (Amendment) Bill read first time. Resumed debate on broadcasting proceedings of the House: motion carried by 299 votes to 124. Motion take note of EEC documents on energy policy: Opposition amendment agreed to and amended motion agreed to. Adjournment debate about the coal industry. House adjourned 11.59 pm.

Wednesday, March 17: Statement on national newspaper industry. Motion for first reading of Coal Industry (Amendment) Bill rejected by 205 votes to 154. Consolidated Fund (No 3) Bill read first time. Debate on motion for the adjournment: on rented accommodation, motion rejected by 285 votes to 265: on commuter rail services debate adjourned. Housing (Amendment) (Scotland) Bill and Education (School-leaving Dates) Bill passed report stage and read third time. Adjournment debate about closure of factories in Brent. House adjourned 11.45 pm.

Thursday, March 18: Lords amendments to Trade Union and Labour Relations (Amendment) Bill considered. Consolidated Fund (No. 2) Bill read second time: debates on defence procurement; National Enterprise Board: devolution for Scotland: arts and the national heritage: job creation: and food subsidies. Malta Development Authority (Dissolution) Bill read second time. Adjournment debate about public transport in North Bedfordshire. House adjourned 2.31 am (Friday).

Friday, March 19: Private members' motions: on religious education in schools, motion agreed to: on referendum on devolution, debate adjourned. Solicitors (Scotland) Bill passed committee and remaining stages. Adjournment debate about attendance allowance for deaf children. House adjourned 4.34 pm.

House of Lords

Monday, March 15: International Carriage of Perishable Foodstuffs Bill and Education (Scotland) Bill passed committee stage. Coity Walks Bill read second time. Motions on Solicitors (Northern Ireland) Order: Fat Sheep (Protection of Guarantees) and (Guarantee) Payments) Orders: and Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1972 (Commencement No. 4) Order agreed to. Motion to answer civil litigation guidelines: Government motion agreed to and Opposition motion carried by 83 votes to 68. Debatable question on transport and communications in Scotland. House adjourned 7.11 pm.

Tuesday, March 16: Trustee Savings Banks Bill and Road Traffic (Drivers' Ages and Hours of Work) Bill. Committee amendment rejected by 200 votes to 258 and Bill read second time. Motion on Local Loans (Increase of Limit) Order carried by 111 votes to 7. Adjournment debate about Bermingham horticultural market. House adjourned 11.56 pm.

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Parliamentary notices

House of Commons

Today at 2.30: Debates on personal taxation and on defence cuts in Northern Ireland. Prevention of Terrorism (Temporary Provisions) Bill, consideration of Lords amendments.

Tomorrow at 2.30: New Towns (Amendment) Bill, second reading. Motion on Property Services Agency Order. Water Charges Bill, consideration of any Lords amendments.

Wednesday at 2.30: Debate on international trade. British Transport Docks (Felixstowe) Bill, second reading. Motion on Financial Assistance to Industry (BP Chemicals International Ltd).

Thursday at 2.30: Weights and Measures Etc Bill, second reading. Motions on coal industry Orders.

Friday at 11.00: Private member's motion on erosion of personal liberty. Passports Bill, second reading.

Select committees

Today.—Science and Technology: General Purposes Sub-Committee, Subject: Advance ground transport. Witnesses: Chairman and representatives of Science Research Council advanced ground transport panel (Room 15, 4 pm). Expenditure: Education, Arts, and Home Office Sub-Committee, Subject: Priorities and decision taking in the DES. Witnesses: National Foundation for Educational Research in England and Wales (Room 15, 3.45 pm). Abortion. Witnesses: The Lord Bishop of Truro, the Rt Rev Graham Leonard and others representing the Church of England (Room 6, 3 pm). Wednesday.—Nationalized Industries: Sub-Committee E. (Subject: Reports and accounts of regional water authorities. Witnesses: Regional water authorities (Room 8, 4 pm). Expenditure: Social Services and Employment Sub-Committee. Subject: Preventive medicine. Witness: W. J. H. Butterfield, Regius Professor of Physic, University of Cambridge (Room 15, 4.30 pm). Science and Technology: Science Sub-Committee. Subject: Industry and Scientific Research. Witnesses: Lucas Industries (Room 6, 4 pm). Expenditure: Trade and Industry Sub-Committee. Subject: Public expenditure on Chrysler (UK) Ltd. Witnesses: Machine Tool Trades Association; Dept of Employment and on services in rural areas. Debatable question on exchange of prisoners after World War II. House adjourned 9.43 pm.

Thursday, March 18: Public Lending Right Bill read first time. Education (Scotland) Bill, and International Carriage of Perishable Foodstuffs Bill read third time. Water Charges Bill passed report stage. Crofting Reform (Scotland) Bill read second time. Post Office (Banking Services) Bill passed committee stage. Commons amendment to Education (School-leaving Dates) Bill agreed to. House adjourned 6.27 pm.

House of Lords

Today, at 2.30: Water Charges Bill, third reading. Trade Union and Labour Relations (Amendment) Bill, consideration of Commons message. Energy Bill, and Bail Bill, second reading.

Tomorrow at 2.30: Consolidated Fund (No 2) Bill, Companies (No 4) Bill, and Anglian Water Authority Bill, second reading. Post Office (Banking Services) Bill, report stage and third reading. Debatable question on prevention of fables in the United Kingdom.

Wednesday at 3.30: Debate on obscene publications and indecent displays law. Motions on Legal Aid (Extension of Proceedings) Regulations and Legal Aid (Scotland) (Extension of Proceedings) Regulations.

Thursday at 3.00: Consolidated Fund (No 2) Bill, second reading. Bill of Rights Bill and Bill of Rights (Northern Ireland) Bill, second reading. Motions on Gas Hereditaments (Rateable Values) Order: Electricity Boards (Rateable Values) Order: Docks and Harbours (Rateable Values) Order: and Redundant Mineworkers and Concessionary Coal (Payment Schemes) (Amendment) Order.

Select committees

Tomorrow—EEC Sub-Committee on Health, education and social affairs. Subject: Directive on schooling for children of migrants. Witnesses: Schoolmasters Association (15 pm).

Wednesday—Commodity Prices (10.30 am). EEC Sub-Committee on Agriculture and Consumer Affairs. Subject: Draft regulation on potato market. Witnesses: Potato Marketing Board (10.30 am).

Thursday—EEC Sub-Committee on Trade and Tariffs. Subject: Trademarks report on European Union and the Committee on Inward Processing. Witnesses: Officials of Board and Customs and Excise (11 am).

Today's engagements

The Duke of Edinburgh, president of the National Playing Fields Association, attends an industrialists' dinner on behalf of the Scottish branch, Elphinstone Hall, Aberdeen University, 7.30.

The Duke and Duchess of Gloucester attend annual banquet of the Cookery and Food Association, Dorchester hotel, 7.40.

The Duke of Kent visits Lotus Cars, Wymondham, Norfolk, 11.

The Lord Mayor of London opens the annual British exhibition of fine jewelry and sterling silver, Goldsmiths' Hall, 11.

Latest appointments

Latest appointments include:

Mr R. J. A. Temple, QC, and Mr H. A. Shewan, QC, to be referees under the Child Benefit Act, 1975.

Mr Nicholas Serota, director of the Museum of Modern Art, Oxford, to be director of the Whitechapel Art Gallery.

Latest wills

Latest estates include (net, before duty paid; duty not disclosed):

Lawther, Sir William, of Cullercoats, Tyne and Wear, former president of the National Union of Mineworkers ... £11,921

Craster, Sir John Montagu, of Craster, Northumberland £261,091

Gardner, Mr Francis William, of Brockenhurst, Hampshire, engineer ... £283,933

£50,000 winner

The weekly £50,000 Premium Savings Bond prize, announced on Saturday, was won by number 17 ZZ 561284. The winner lives in Shropshire. The 25 £1,000 winners are:

4 AS 747378	8 KZ 573143	8 TL 667860
2 DS 457834	5 NZ 210329	6 TZ 402118
2 DT 474065	10 PK 379413	7 VZ 192254
2 FP 429805	4 RS 508204	11 YZ 606655
5 KB 670601	SN 835508	1 AT 525767
6 FB 910479	25 SN 104067	4 YT 683149
3 LT 188773	1 TS 656384	6 ZT 401537
9 KL 970058	5 TS 001284	14 ZW 546675
		15 ZK 390656

Court action threat by poultry producers over EEC milk scheme

Agriculture

Hugh Clayton

Poultry producers are thinking about taking the European Commission to court and food processors are studying the chances of enlarging aid to developing countries in the form of a milk-based biscuit. Those are the latest moves in Britain in connexion with the confusing and complicated story of the Community skim milk surplus.

Since the referendum last year, in which the food industry was influential in calling for an affirmative vote, nothing from Brussels has aroused so much resentment among those who produce, process and market food and agricultural inputs.

The decision by the council of EEC farm ministers to reduce the surplus by taxing alternative sources of protein has created two dangerous precedents. First, the latest price award to dairy farmers and the continuing high level of milk output worldwide mean that excessive supply in the Community will continue beyond the seven months' taxation period.

British interests therefore fear that the endorsement of the council will tempt the European Commission to seek to extend or renew the scheme in the face of fierce opposition from industry. Second, the tax on imported protein, redeemable against use of skim milk in animal feed in the place of imports, marks the switching of responsibility for removing a surplus away from its authors.

Milk and the skim milk "mountain" come from the dairy sector, yet the inconvenience and expense of reducing the surplus has been thrown on to users of concentrated feeds based on imported raw materials, who are primarily pig and poultry farmers.

Coresponsibility, in which producers and consumers both pay the costs of straightening the kinks in the Common Agricultural Policy, is a notion with which the Community has toyed in the past year. That would be a sharing of cost from production through distribution.

The skim milk plan is not shared. The implications are alarming if the concept is accepted as an instrument of Community policy. Poultry producers say that it might just as well operate in the opposite direction. If they have to put milk in their concentrates, why should other farmers not be made to put powdered egg in cattle rations?

Fury, contempt and abuse have been heaped on the Community's scheme. The story was told vividly last week by Mr Noel Hill, president of the Compound Animal Feeding Stuffs Manufacturers' National Association. He told feed compounders at a dinner in Edinburgh that there was a political motive behind the plan to put the "mountain" into feed.

He went on: "The skim milk powder is worth in feed about one quarter of its intended selling price. Written down to that real price the powder would have cost the Community budget about £250m on the 600,000 tonnes they wished to shed. What price the public reaction to such plunder of the taxpayer's purse?

"Why much better to bury the [illegible] dribbling the unwanted skim milk powder into feed. The manufacturer could absorb some of the cost, the producer a lot more and, who knows, perhaps the housewife would pay another 1p a pound on her bacon.

"Back then to the drawing board went the bureaucrats and Proposal Two emerged. If skim milk powder was too dear to compete with other proteins the solution was clear. Tax the other proteins and use the money to bring down the cost of skim milk to the new, higher protein price.

"Coercion is introduced by requiring all to pay tax on all vegetable proteins and in exchange to receive a kind of Green Shield stamp which can be cashed in as a certain amount of skim milk powder, at of course the unreduced price, if purchased."

The scheme was an example of bureaucratic bungling, he said, adding: "This regulation presents a fundamental attack upon the freedom of feed manufacturers, large and small, trader and farmer, to exercise the basic skills of their trade. It is unacceptable in principle and ill-constructed in practical detail."

Mr Tim Fortescue, secretary-general of the Food and Drink Industries Council, which represents food processors, said: "It really is nonsense to go on paying people to produce milk when we have got much too much. If there is a surplus in Europe and if it happens to be of a product that we happen to produce here, what do we do?

"The only solution is not to produce so much milk. That is politically impossible at the moment and would presumably remain impossible until the Germans decide that they do not want to go on paying."

Appointments in the Forces

Royal Navy

REAR-ADMIRAL: T. R. Craddas, Rid List, March 31.

CAPTAINS: B. K. Shattock, Glamorgan in Cmd, June 15; C. A. W. Weston, to be promtd Rr-Adml, July 7, to be Admt Pres RNC Greenwich in July; P. J. Toll, Rcd List, March 29.

COMMANDERS: G. W. R. Stogg, Neptune as CO COOC (A), Oct 22; A. D. C. Ross, Resolution (SM) (Port), in Cmd, July 13; J. S. Guard, Staff of Commcsouthreg Izmir, Sept 21; I. M. Laing, Staff of Sacland as Oy Last 2, June 28; B. G. Bennett, MOD with DGMT (DNMT(S)), Aug 10; L. A. Harpum, Ark Royal, June 28; A. R. Wood, MOD with Staff of COS (Sy), April 21; J. J. Carington, MOD with OIS, June 8; J. A. P. Tuery, Neptune as Base Engr Offr, Sept 23; R. G. Tregown, Newcastle (Bldg), Sept 24, and as WEO on commng; J. E. St J. Raymond, Centurion as Hd of Geojpmt br, June 7; A. Quesby, Centurion for Pcc-Univ trng and for studied soc studies post grad crse at Southampton Univ, June 23; A. W. Allen, Centurion, Computer Replacement Project Team, June 22; F. S. Allfrey, Staff of Commchome as Cmd Sy Offr, July 3; G. Surew, HQ SALTAP, Sept 21; R. H. Norman, MOD with OGMT (DNMT(S)), Aug 20; D. R. M. Philpott, MOD with DNOM, May 17; J. W. Boughey, MOD with DNEnS in contn, Aug 20; G. N. Davis, MOD with DnEnS, Aug 3; T. Carpenter, Colombo, July 6; P. G. Rowe, MOD with DNEnS, July 15; A. E. Kinsey, OIC Children's Schls and Staff Instr Offr at FOSB, June 25; E. A. Baldwin, Rid List, May 1.

SURGEON-COMMANDERS: J. W. Baugh, HMS Neptune as PMO, Oct 10; S. G. Scanlan, RNH Plymouth, Aug 16; E. H. P. Warbuton, Rcd List, May 1.

SURGEON-COMMANDER (B): D. J. Pickering, Pembroke, May 18.

CHAPLAINS: Rev T. A. Taylor, Sultan, March 1; Rev M. J. Smith, Staff of FOF1, March 22.

The Army

BRIGADIERS: J. H. B. Acland, to be Comd Land Forces and Dep Comd BF Cyprus, March 27; D. H. Baynes to be CSO HQ UKLF, March 23; A. G. Findlay, to be Brig Highlands, HQ Scotland, March 24; Col J. A. Notley apptd Comd Engr Sp Gp, March 23; Col T. Sampson, to be Comdt ACC Trg Centre, March 22; Col M. C. Snow, to be DDEME HQ DEME (A), March 26.

COLONELS: A. P. Bater, to be Col GS Sigs 32 MOD, March 26; J. A. Cowell, apptd Col GS RARDE War Gamed Cmbt 1, 1-Col A. W. Gaston, RA, to be Col Q, Q Ong, HQ BAOR, March 27; A. E. Marson, to be ADEME EME 7, HQ DEME (A), March 26; M. S. Shaw, apptd recruit and ADJANS MH Catterick, March 22.

LIEUTENANT-COLONELS: Mcl A. S. McK. Anderson, R Signals, to be GSO1 Telecoms Br HQ Northbd, March 18; P. K. Gonibear, RAPC, apptd DS Nam S. RMCS Shrivenham, March 22; G. M. Freemond, RA, to be GSO1 (SSRN) HQ 6B, MOD, March 26; B. C. M. Handmd, RA, to be GSO1 A Br Ops, HQ Northwg, March 22; J. G. Mayne, RAEC, appt Cb Educ Offr HQ West Mid Dist, March 22; J. R. Nass, RE, apptd MA(GSO1) Rabat, March 22; C. J. Scott, SR, apptd AA & QMG and Dep Comd HQ Brigncpal, March 22; D. S. Walker, RA, to be GSO1 Cabinet Office, March 26; J. B. Willis, RE, to be GSO1 (Author), Staff C, Camberley, March 23.

RETIREMENT: Brig M. C. Thursby-Pelham, March 23.

Royal Air Force

AIR COMMODORE: E. J. T. Goose, to HQ TC as Air Cdre Grd Trg, March 27.

GROUP CAPTAINS: A. W. W. Atkinson, to MOD (P or R) RAF, Dep Dir of Recruiting (RAF), March 29; E. V. Mellor, to Dept of CAS, MOD, March 1; J. E. Nevill, to RAF Honington as OC Comdg, March 26; K. Smith, to HK STC as DC Elect Eng (Grd), March 22; G. Fifoot, appt A-d-C to the Queen, March 16.

WING COMMANDER: J. D. O'Dwyer-Russell, to Staff C Bracknell as DS, March 23.

Memorial service

Air Vice-Marshal S. F. Vincent

The Lord Lieutenant of Suffolk was represented by Sir Joshua Rowley, Deputy Lieutenant, at a memorial service for Air Vice-Marshal Stanley Flamank Vincent, held yesterday in St Edmundsbury Cathedral, Bury St Edmunds.

The Provost of St Edmundsbury, the Very Rev John Waddington, officiated, assisted by Canon Cecil Rhodes and Canon D. A. Payne. Group Captain E. S. Chandler, Officer Commanding RAF Honington, read the lesson. Among those present were:

Mrs Elisabeth Vincent (widow), Mr and Mrs Anthony Vincent (son and daughter-in-law), Mr Peter Vincent (son), Mrs Elisabeth Barham (daughter), Mr Francis Vincent, Mr James Vincent, John Vincent and Richard Barham (grandsons), Captain Philard Peyton, RN, and Mrs Peyton (brother-in-law and sister-in-law); Mr J. N. Peyton (brother-in-law), Mr Richard Peyton, Mrs Mary Greenhalgh (also representing Professor E. R. P. Vincent, brother), Mr and Mrs Leslie Peyton and Mrs Shirley Cranwick (nephew and niece), Miss Dana Gilpin-Brown.

The Duke of Grafton, Lady Suffolk, Air Marshal Sir Victor Goddard, the High Sheriff of Suffolk, the Mayor of St Edmundsbury, Air Commodore [illegible], R. Rich and Mrs Rich; Air Vice-Marshal D. G. Macland (representing the Air Board), Group Captain S. Davidson (representing AOC 11 (Group)), Air Vice-Marshal W. Harlow, Mr A. St Pierre (representing the Burma Star Association), General Sir Richard Goodwin; Air Commodore and Mrs Peter Balfour, the Hon David Erskine and Mrs Erskine (representing Bury St Edmunds Theatre Royal), Sir George Falconer, General Evan Roberts (representing Cambridge Third US Air Force), Sir George and Lady Mallaby, Observer Captain J. Clifton (representing Laughton area ROC), Wing Commander O. Sylvester (representing Suffolk Wing ATC), Wing Commander and Mrs Theobald Mathews (also representing Suffolk Preservation Society), Mr F. J. Brunt (representing Suffolk War Pensions Committee), Mr John Sanford (also representing King's College Choir School, Cambridge).

OBITUARY

MR STUART CLOETE
South African novelist

Mr Stuart Cloete, the South African novelist and travel writer, died on March 20 at the age of 78. Born in France in 1897, he was educated at Lancing College and went into the army on the outbreak of war in 1914. After the war, during which he was wounded several times, he continued in the Coldstream Guards for a few years, before going to South Africa, which had been the home of his ancestors, in 1925.

There he farmed and generally led an outdoor life until, when he was 39 another novelist, Arnot Robertson, persuaded him to take up writing. His first novel *The Turning Wheels* a tale of the Great Trek, appeared in Britain and the United States to 1937 and from that point he became a prolific writer of best sellers. One of these, *The Fiercest Heart (1960)*, was made into a film. The South African censors did not always react favourably to Cloete's novels and a number—including his first, only finally released for publication there in 1974—were banned for a time in the country.

Two volumes of an autobiography, *A Victorian Son* and *The Gambler*, appeared in 1971 and 1973.

MISS CHRISTL ZIMMERL

Miss Christl Zimmerl, one of the ballerinas of the Vienna State Opera House, died on March 19, at the age of 37. Noted for her dramatic qualities, she created leading roles in ballets by Dimitrije Parlic, Aurel Von Milloss and others besides dancing in a wide range of ballets including Ninette de Valois's *Checkmate*, Leonide Massine's *Three Cornered Hat* and Nureyev's *Don Quixote*.

She was also proud of reintroducing to her native Vienna the famous *Cachucha* of her nineteenth-century predecessor Fanny Elssler. She came to London especially to learn it after the contemporary dance script had been discovered and deciphered by Ann Hutchinson.

Miss Zimmerl was married to the critic, Gerhard Brunner, and intended to retire from dancing this year to assist him in his new appointment as director of the ballet at the Vienna State Opera. They had two children, a boy and a girl.

BARON ALBERT LILAR

Baron Albert Lilar, the Belgian Minister of State since 1960, died in March 16 at the age of 75. Lilar, a Liberal, had been Minister of Justice in four Belgian Governments and was created a baron by King Baudouin for his political achievements only a week before his death.

Born in 1900 he was admitted to the Antwerp Bar in 1922 and went on to be a distinguished career as a jurist of international repute in Maritime Law. He first became Minister of Justice in 1946-47 and thereafter held the office in 1949-50, 1954-58 and 1960-61. He was Deputy Prime Minister from 1958 to 1960 and Head of the Antwerp Bar from 1964 to 1966.

His wife, Suzanne, was similarly honoured on the same day as himself by King Baudouin. One of the two daughters of the marriage was Francoise Mallet-Joris, the noted popular author.

MR NOEL D'AMATO

A Correspondent writes:—

"Chappie" D'Amato, who died on March 13 in a London hospital, at the age of 78, was a well-known figure in the fields of both popular music and football.

He was born into a London Italian family, with important musical associations; Caruso, particularly, was a frequent visitor when over here. In the war of 1914-18, he joined the army and was one of the earliest tank drivers at the Battle of the Somme. After demobilization, he naturally pursued a musical career, joining Jack Hylton's original band in which he became first saxophone and e frequent vocalist; his other main instrument was the guitar. After leaving Hylton, he formed his own band and is best remembered for its long engagement at Hatchett's in Piccadilly from 1939 until 1950. During the later forties, the band had a regular twice-weekly broadcasting spot. His association with Fulham Football Club went back to his youth and he was a director for over forty-nine years, as well as vice-chairman for the past twenty-five.

He leaves a widow, the former Miss Cecile Jeffrey, whom he married in 1944 and is already sadly missed by his many friends, who were by no means restricted to the worlds of music and football.

LIEUT-COL A. HEYWOOD-LONSDALE

Lieutenant-Colonel Arthur Heywood-Lonsdale, CBE, TD, who died on March 14 at the age of 75, was Lord Lieutenant of Salop, formerly Shropshire, from 1970.

He had taken a leading part in public life in the area sitting for many years on the county council of which he had been chairman. He had served as High Sheriff in 1957-58 and was a Deputy Lieutenant from 1951 to 1970.

He was commissioned in the Grenadier Guards in 1919 and retired in 1931, but was re-employed in the Second World War winning a Military Cross in 1943. He was a former Master of the Bicester Foxhounds.

Lady Caroline Duff, wife of Sir Michael Duff, Bt, died on March 19. She was the eldest daughter of the sixth Marquess of Anglesey, and she was married in 1949.

25 years ago
The Jumblies

The deputies of the four powers arguing away day after day in Paris resemble nothing so much as Mr Edward Lear's jumblies who went to sea in a sieve. No matter how hard they bale, no matter how many disagreements they get rid of, other disagreements and misunderstandings come seeping in almost as quickly. Over and above that, they must at times be oppressed with the thought that they are engaged in a thankless and insubstantial exercise.

Their business is to draw up the agenda for a conference of the four Foreign Ministers themselves, but they can hardly imagine that the formulation of neat and precise agenda, including some items and passing over others in silence, will provide a rigid code of conduct for the Foreign Ministers' debate . . . Even Mr Lear's characters returned home safe in the end.

Clifford Longley's usual religious article appears this week in the form of a profile of the new Archbishop of Westminster on the facing page.

From The Times of Thursday, March 22, 1951.

Science report

Archaeology: Dumbarton, early British capital

Castle Rock, Dumbarton, is frequently said to have the longest history of fortification of any castle in Britain. Two seasons of excavation by Glasgow University's Department of Archaeology have yielded information about the earliest defences.

They have also given us insights into what the Venerable Bede meant when he called the place *civitas Brettomum munitissima* — a very strongly defended city of the Britons.

Bede translated the native British place name Alcluith as *Petra Clut*, Clyde Rock. That is an aptly descriptive name, for the twin volcanic hills of the Rock dominate the Clyde where it is joined by the river Leven. In early times, indeed, it was cut off at high tide.

Its strategic significance was that until the Clyde was deepened in the eighteenth century Alcluith was at its highest navigable point, overlooking a tidal ford. With the rich Vale of Leven to the north and easy access across the river to Renfrewshire and Lanarkshire, it was well fitted to be capital of the British Kingdom of Strathclyde.

The earliest indisputable historical reference, that in Bede's *Ecclesiastical History*, implies that Alcluith had been fortified for some time before AD 731. Indeed, Irish tradition in the seventh century regarded the Rock as the seat of that Coroticus to whom St Patrick wrote a famous letter complaining about the kidnapping of his converts. That may even carry the history of the Rock back to Patrick's own day, about AD 460.

Subsequently, Clyde Rock featured in warfare between the Britons, the Scots and the Angles and was the scene of Viking sieges and ravagings. In one of those, about AD 870, Ivarr, King of Dublin, besieged it for four months, and ultimately destroyed the citadel.

Later historical events may be passed over briefly. The name Dumbarton, literally Fort of the Britons, supplanted Clyde Rock in the thirteenth century. The castle played some part in the internal struggles of medieval Scotland, and saw a notable night attack at the end of Mary's reign. There are elegant fortifications of Hanoverian date, and the latest archaeological levels are replete with military paraphernalia of 1939-45.

My own interest in Alcluith was as part of a long-term programme of research on early historically documented fortifications in Scotland.

In ter

Machine tools

a Special Report

Showing spirit in tough times

Business appears to be getting less bleak for Britain's hard-pressed machine tool trade. After a year when recession on a global scale has bitten deep into profits and confidence there are at least some small signs that the worst is over.

In September the industry will be out in force at its prestige exhibition, appropriately held for the first time in the Midlands, the heart of the machine tool industry, and by then with luck orders will be flowing again with increasing speed into the machine tool factories and importing agents' offices.

Mr George Trowbridge, president of the Machine Tool Trades Association, speaks highly of the industry's spirit of purpose which, he says, will not be denied and is well shown by the confidence to go ahead with the exhibition, the largest machine tool display presented in Britain, "marching for diversity, product and space occupied, the major exhibitions in the world".

And some self satisfaction can be excused in the machine tool industry. It has been bedevilled for years by the cyclical nature of capital spending, particularly in the mechanical engineering sector, and with the intensification of the effects of the world recession to chronic proportions; the machine tool men are in dire need of a rallying call.

Last year, orders for the machine tool companies dropped to their lowest level for 20 years with both home and export markets suffering badly.

For the last three months of 1975, the order input, according to about a dozen of the leading companies, represented 45 to 50 per cent of manufacturing capacity. The inevitable result last year was short-time working and redundancies.

Other figures and predictions added to the gloom. Mr Trowbridge told guests at the MTTA's annual dinner in November that the industry was threatened with a shortage of work valued at £100m.

A few days later came a warning from outside the industry. Mr A. J. Sanders, director of production engineering for British Leyland cars, was telling MPs at a meeting arranged by the MTTA of the danger that British machine tools would be available no longer unless the downward trend was arrested.

The downturn was even more marked because of its rapidity. In 1973 the industry was working at full capacity with the big companies forced to sub-contract as much as 15 per cent of their work.

But Britain is not alone. Its biggest machine tool competitors are suffering as well, with workers laid off or on short time all over the world. Japan's rapid growth has halted and an intense price-cutting war developed last year among machine tool builders. West Germany, facing plummeting orders, has been even more depressed than Britain, and America's machine tool industry has not fared much better.

Mr Sanders said: "The first duty of the machine tool makers to users is to survive because if you do not the time must surely run out for all of us".

The observation is also made by the 13-nation European Committee for Co-operation of the Machine Tool Industries (Cecimo), of which Mr Trowbridge is president.

"Machine tools are the starting point of all production, all modernization, all technical innovation. Wherever metal is shaped into a workpiece by milling, planing, turning or grinding, it is a machine tool that does the job.

"Machine tools are proof of our advanced engineering level and reflect the achievements of our industry and economy. In fact, they determine our standard of living. For each product is only as good as the machine tool used in its manufacture.

"Without machine tools we would not be able to solve the problems of the future, such as the industrialization of developing countries, the peaceful use of atomic energy or the desalination of sea water."

And Britain is still a major force to be reckoned with in the world machine tool industry. Thanks to the rationalizations of recent years, the advances in technology which have led to some of the best numerically controlled machines and machining centres in the world, and the spread of interests to include importing as well as manufacturing, the industry is emerging from the depths of the recession in a remarkable condition.

Britain's 180 producers make about 3,000 different types of machine tools varying from one to 500 tons and cost anything from £1,000 to £250,000. Most of them also offer a wide range of imported machine tools.

They are spread across the country, with concentrations in Birmingham, Coventry and Leicester, and employ about 49,000 people including more than 500 scientists and technologists and 20,000 skilled craftsmen.

The value of total deliveries of British machine tools last year is estimated at £295m, an increase of over £40m on 1974. British consumption is valued at about £280m of which the domestic producers supplied about 60 per cent and some 40 per cent of all sales are to the mechanical engineering sector with the motor industry the best customers.

Sales in 1975 persistently outpaced orders and the value of orders on hand towards the end of the year slipped to about £200m from £264m at the end of 1974. So with the upturn not expected to be in full swing until the autumn, the next two or three months will be crucial and the machine tool trade will be looking not only for some extra boost to manufacturing investment in next month's Budget but also some early speed up of ordering from big customers like the motor industry.

Government strategy towards the machine tool industry has become more coherent in recent times, with the injection of investment-generating public funds and the agreement to set up, through the National Enterprise Board (NEB), a stockbuilding scheme.

The prospect of widespread nationalization of the British machine tool industry has also receded. The Brighton firm of Kearney and Trecker Marwin is all set for "denationalization" with Vickers taking control. What is more likely is that the NEB, its only machine tool interests being the state-owned firm of Alfred Herbert which was forced upon it, may cast its eye over the more profitable and successful companies in the industry.

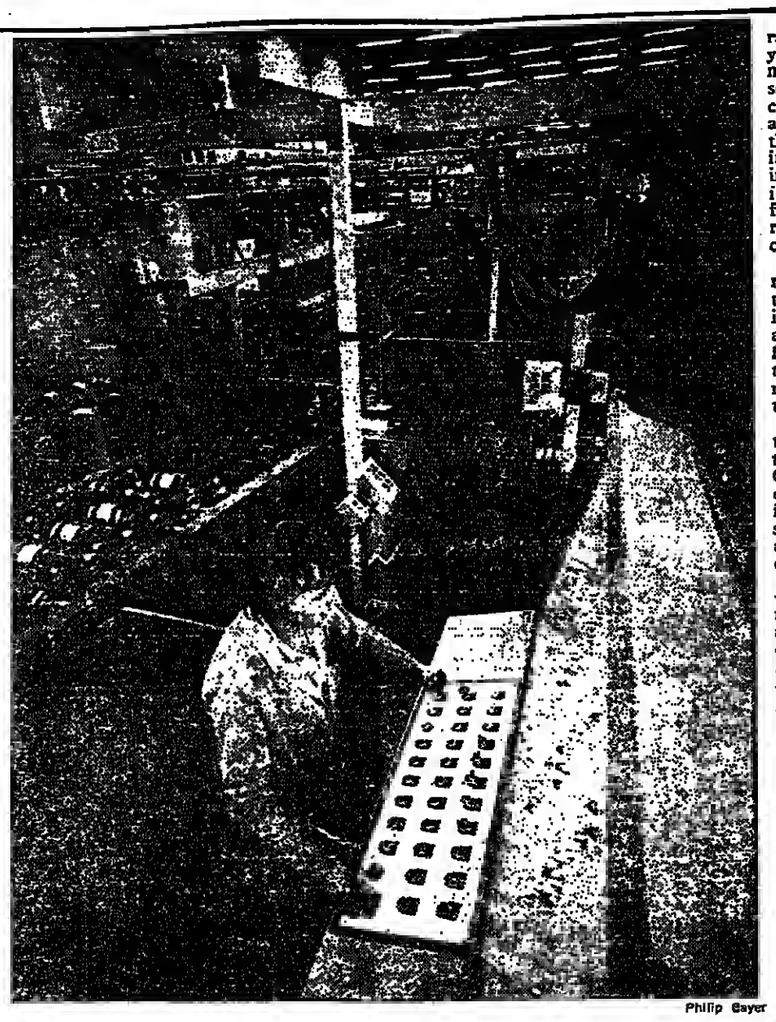
Meanwhile, the industry is looking to export markets this year to continue to bolster the lean order books. There are also hopes, regarded as slim in some quarters, that British Leyland will begin to spend some of the promised £450m it has for machine tools.

One leading motor industry supplier said: "Spending £45m a year for 10 years is not easy and I am pessimistic about the level of British Leyland ordering. We are not making any plans to cope with orders from that source this year."

The general recovery expected this year may also be hampered by the large amount of stockpiled Russian and East European machine tools in Britain. Mr Howard Barrett, director general of the MTTA, says: "We have no idea how many low-value Russian machines are now in stock ready to deny the British manufacturers straightforward sales". But trade is a two-way affair and the MTTA noises are not being made too loudly.

The basic problem remains that of ensuring a sound manufacturing industry capable of generating the business for the machine tool men and that, the MTTA says, can be done only by a state-backed policy of regular investment.

Mr Trowbridge adds: "Given the opportunity of a continuing level of activity without the traumatic cyclical variations from year to year, our industry has the designers, technicians and skilled workforce to enable it to maintain its place in the forefront of machine tool manufacture and supply."



Philip Gayer

Designed and manufactured by the special machinery division of Kearney & Trecker Marwin, Brighton, for a customer in the British automotive industry, this in-line transfer machine carries out machining operations on the crankshaft of a six-cylinder engine.

Present glut, future potential

Probably the most severe glut in the world machine tool industry has occurred in the advanced high technology numerical control sector.

There are about 200 suppliers of numerical control throughout the world, made up of machine tool manufacturers manufacturing their own controls and specialist electronic companies supplying the industry. Of the total, about 40 are regarded as significant, and of those about 23 share more than 60 per cent of the global market.

The picture of numerical control suppliers doing battle for the available business is best seen in Europe. According to Mr Maurice Hewitt, chairman of the British Numerical Control Society, the European market for numerical control machine tools is about £25m a year, of which about £9m is satisfied by the machine tool makers themselves.

The remaining £16m of business, Mr Hewitt says, is sufficient to cover the capital expenditure and research and development costs of about three suppliers. Looking down that list of 23 major suppliers, however, at least 15 are based in Europe.

The basic principles of metal cutting machine tools are simple. Their function is to drill holes, cut threads, shape pieces of metal to exacting tolerances. The addition of numerical control allows the machine to be "instructed" by a pre-programmed tape which liberates the machine to perform a variety of tasks quickly, cuts down the expensive labour factor and allows greater flexibility.

Without machine tools, so many of the material things we take for granted today would not exist; without numerical control much of the almost unimaginable degree of accuracy required in the age of space travel would be unobtainable.

Numerical control was conceived simultaneously in the United Kingdom and the United States about 21 years ago primarily to manufacture components for the aerospace industry of a complexity that defeated manual effort. Mr Hewitt points out that the maiden flight of Concorde was an appropriate moment to remember the technology in machine tools and controls that made manufacture possible.

In general, engineering companies have been slow to adopt numerical control. Some suppliers prefer to use the word "frightened", possibly because of the number of small companies, particularly in the United Kingdom, which could not afford an investment of some £20,000.

The inevitable consequence has been that Britain has fallen steadily behind in equipping its industry with up-to-date machinery. Mr Joe Perkins, managing director of Elgar, the major machine tool importing subsidiary of the B. Elliott Group, reckons that the United Kingdom market for numerical control lathes is about 200 a year while in Japan the figure is 600 to 700.

Today, modern solid state technology is enabling controls to be built offering features undreamt of 10 years ago. Tape preparation, a tedious manual chore, has now been simplified by the design of the control; and powerful mainframe computers can bring massive computing power to the small businessman through a terminal in the office.

The advances have been enormous. The mini-computer used in some systems is already becoming outmoded, Mr Hewitt says. "The sixth generation of controls is already with us, an amazing average of four years a generation."

United Kingdom suppliers of numerical control equipment are bitter about what they see as a long-standing lack of support by governments for their particular brand of high technology, while in countries like Italy and Germany there is direct or indirect state aid.

Government assistance is vital if the United Kingdom industry is to keep abreast of the advances being made elsewhere. And numerical control has a big potential, probably greater than any other form of machine tool control.

The total Western European market for numerical control in 1974 was £23.4m (at 1975 prices). This year it is expected to be about £26.8m rising to £41.1m by 1980. By comparison, the market for plughoard control, a little less advanced, is forecast to rise from £5m

continued on facing page

Platforms for their wares

More than a few fingers have been kept firmly crossed in recent months at the London headquarters of the Machine Tool Trades Association where officials have been preparing for their big showpiece exhibition this autumn.

In 1972, immediately after the last of the four-yearly International British machine tool exhibitions, association executives began work on preparations for Mach 76, not knowing, of course, that only months before opening day the industry would still be in the grip of a recession.

Their more recent fears of a major cutback on exhibition expenditure have proved wrong, however. By a stroke of good fortune, the increase in demand is likely to be under way when Mach 76 begins on September 22 and the machine-tool companies will be competing hard for every scrap of business.

Demand for space at Mach 76, being staged at the National Exhibition Centre near Birmingham, has exceeded that experienced in 1972 and the association is faced with almost an embarrassment of riches. There will be more than 240 exhibitors, all of them MTTA members, displaying more than 2,000 machines from 18 countries.

In spite of the exhibition clashing with a similar show in Chicago, the Birmingham event is clearly going to be a prestige event that no one wants to miss. It will cover almost 35,000 sq metres of the vast exhibition centre compared with 29,500 sq metres in 1972.

But Mach 76 is not the only major event in the machine tool calendar this year. There are at least six big expensive shows for companies to cope with, a proliferation described by Mr Howard Barrett, director general of the association, as "nothing short of ridiculous".

The value to companies of taking part in the seemingly endless round of exhibitions is generally regarded as not being worth the expense. Exhibitors at Birmingham, for example, will be paying £30 a sq metre for stand space and about £10 a sq metre for stand fitting. On top of that are the costs of transporting the machine tools, manning the stand for 10 days and entertaining visitors. The foreign shows can be far more expensive.

So why do companies continue to take part? Basically, Mr Barrett said, because they cannot afford not to be represented. Exhibitions are not usually the places where big orders are placed, but they are talking shops and platforms on which the industry can show its wares to world customers.

It is also a profitable business. The association expects to make about £96,000 out of Mach 76 from a turnover of £1m. An added benefit is that the Inland Revenue allows it to be taxed on the same basis as the association's non-trading activities.

Not that the MTTA's expectations are high. "We run exhibitions at a minimum profit level", Mr Barrett said. "The European organizers make twice as much."

The trouble with machine-tool exhibitions in the past has been that to attract buyers in the first place companies needed to be convinced that the events would be specialized enough to warrant the cost. To justify a few days in a foreign capital, however, potential customers also wanted to see a fairly wide range of goods.

In 1950, one of the aims of the newly formed European Committee for Cooperation of the Machine Tool Industries (CECIMO) was to coordinate efforts and provide a comprehensive exhibition. The first was held in 1951 in Paris when 829 exhibitors took 25,672 sq metres of space. By 1971 the two-yearly event, staged that year in Milan, was attracting more than 1,000 exhibitors and occupied almost 64,000 sq metres of stand space. Last year's world show in Paris was the biggest with 1,300 exhibitors.

CECIMO's rule is that its 1,500 manufacturing members cannot exhibit at other shows in the year when the committee is staging its own, although this does not prevent national organizations holding their exhibitions in other years.

In 1974, the MTTA, in discussion with its Japanese counterpart, reached agreement on the need for a limitation of exhibitions. The move was rejected by the Americans, however, who felt it might contravene their domestic anti-trust regulations.

The issue was summed up last year by Mr Tony Galliers-Pratt, outgoing president of the MTTA. Although the machine-tool industries of the world complained about the frequency and cost of major exhibitions, participation at which was almost mandatory, the time had not been reached when countries were prepared to face the problem—"perhaps for chauvinistic reasons".

All the articles in this Special Report were written by Edward Townsend of our industrial staff.

MACH 76

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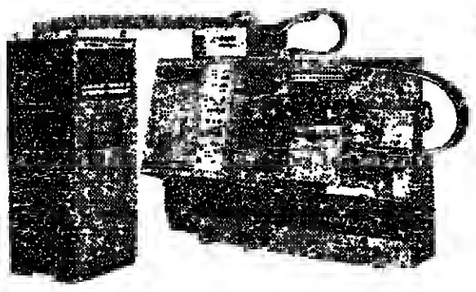

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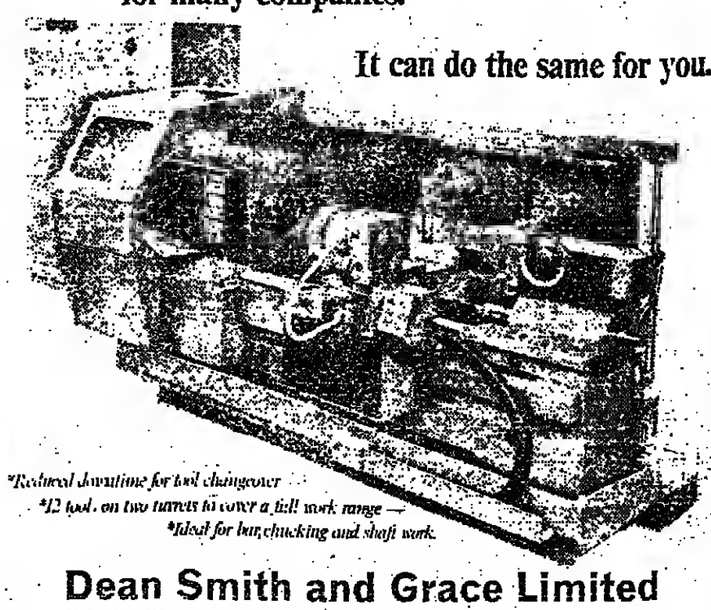

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Call for state plan to plane rough edges of demand curve

For more than 14 years, British machine-tool makers have led an increasingly vociferous body of engineering opinion in calling for a state-backed counter cyclical policy. The idea, simply stated, is to encourage buyers of capital goods such as machine tools to put part of their earnings during the good times into a central reserve fund which could be released when times were hard and investment down.

But government has been difficult to convince. There have been ad hoc schemes—the industry is discussing a stockpiling plan with Lord Ryder's National Enterprise Board now—but no action has been taken on a permanent, long-term plan.

The pressure for a new strategy to help to flatten the peaks and troughs of the demand curve has come mainly from the machine-tool sector because it has been worst affected. This was confirmed in a discussion paper on the issue produced by the National Economic Development Committee for machine tools a year ago and which has formed the basis for the industry's thinking ever since.

The document painted a gloomy picture of "the prevalence of major and frequent disturbances" in demand for capital plant and the consequent adverse effects.

Instability, it said, could cut cash flow and profitability in two years in every five, impairing the confidence of the machinery makers about future prospects and hazarding their potential for attracting external finance.

Of the 10 machinery and equipment industries surveyed, machine tools stood out as the worst sufferer. Over a 14-year period up to 1972, the machine-tool companies experienced a 24.4 per cent deviation from normal trends in home market demand.

The likely result is interrupted investment by the machine-tool makers themselves and a lowering in the industry's ability and willingness to grow.

The report emphasized that after a recession, demand for some capital goods outpaces the supplying industry's ability to cope, even if the demand could be partly met from stock, with the inevitability of lengthening delivery times, lost customers and increasing imports.

"In the machine-tool sector a distinct 'ratchet effect' is noticeable with increases in import shares during the upturn of the cycle exceeding falls in the downturn phase", the report said. This means that once a foreign manufacturer gets into the market it is impossible to get him out.

And herein lies a dilemma for the Machine Tool Trades Association, which has spoken for the industry in the counter-cyclical argument and yet must strike a balance between representing the strict interests of the manufacturers and those of the importing agent.

The situation is made even more delicate by the fact that in Britain the manufacturer and the importer are often the same company, the successful machine-tool makers having become agents for foreign makes as a means of weathering the cyclical storms.

The cycle has also led to labour troubles. Uncertainty and insecurity tend, understandably, to dissuade redundant workers from returning to the industry and young people from joining in the first place.

The causes of the fluctuations in machine-tool demand are diverse and complex. According to the report they include the vagaries of world trade, national demand management policies, changes in energy costs, and "lumpy" investment trends in sectors like chemicals, steel and vehicles.

In 1972, the Government granted publicly-owned establishments like naval dockyards and nationalized industries a modest £16m to spend on machine tools. This boosted demand for six months by about a third.

In August last year, Mr Varley, Secretary of State for Industry, announced a £20m scheme of selective assistance for the metal-working machine-tool industry. This was designed to encourage new projects aimed at improving efficiency and competitiveness.

The industry accepts such aid with politeness but complains that it does little to ease the underlying difficulties. Now the Government has bowed to pressure for a stock-building scheme but that, too, is seen by its advocates as a temporary measure.

Mr Anthony Frodsham, chairman of the machine tool EDC, said: "Everything done by the Government in the past few months really relates to short-term ad hoc concepts. We welcome this action but it is no substitute for a long-term plan to encourage users to go on ordering during the downturn of the cycle."

The industry, with broad agreement from most user industries, has pushed for an investment reserve fund. This, the report said, would mean companies setting aside a proportion of their earnings in any year to a special reserve fund which they would be encouraged to use for investment during a recession and discouraged, though not prohibited, from using when trade was improving.

The industry believes it can circumvent the EEC's ruling against the long-term subsidy of industry and backs its belief that the scheme could be a success by pointing to the working of a similar one in Sweden.

The obvious prerequisite of such a scheme, however, is that manufacturing industry be making enough money in the first place to be able to join in.

In spite of generally depressed profits in the past year, there appears to be no major disagreement in industry about at least setting up the administrative machinery. But, the machine-tool companies complain, that was being said last summer and nothing has been done.

Mr Frodsham is optimistic about the industry's recovery later this year. "But where I am pessimistic is that in another 18 months our factories will be so overloaded that we will again be sucking in more imports."

Present glut but future potential

continued from facing page

this year to £7.7m by 1980 and that for automatic machine tools from £12.4m to £18.9m by the turn of the decade.

The world market for numerical control systems is reckoned this year to be worth £53.5m, rising to almost £80m, an increase of nearly 50 per cent in less than five years.

Much of that business will undoubtedly be captured by the eight leading world producers who at present have a combined share of more than 50 per cent of the market. The leader, by far, is General Electric of America which controls more than 15 per cent of the world business.

The only British representative in the top seven is Plessey Numerical Controls, formed in 1970 by an amalgamation of the numerical control interests of the major United Kingdom companies, Ferranti, Airmec and Plessey. The company now has about 6.5 per cent of the world market, similar to Bendix, the joint United States and German concern, and Cincinnati, the only machine tool producer in the top seven.

The second largest numerical control supplier in the world is Fujitsu of Japan, which is estimated to have shipped some 9,500 controls since 1958 almost solely to Japanese machine tool builders, and the list is completed by Siemens of Germany, Télémécanique of France, and Olivetti of Italy.

Mr Hewitt, who is general manager and director of Plessey Numerical Controls, emphasizes that with the world market for numerical control now approaching 10,000 units a year "the baby is now an adult".

He adds: "The productive output represented by some 15,500 electronically-controlled machine tools each year must conservatively be some quarter of the industrial world's productive output."

In the future numerical control seems to be one of the keys to releasing man from the drudgery and boredom of the factory. One man and one machine will become a partnership of the past, with workers becoming managers of banks of machines rather than manual craftsmen.

"It is quite feasible now to reduce a 400-man factory to a four-man operation but the social consequences would be mo drastic", says Mr Hewitt. In Japan, Germany and Russia, sums totalling probably £100m are now being spent on developing these factories of the future, but little coordinated effort is being made in the United Kingdom.

"Numerical control is the starting point for these advances", he says. "It offers the immediate increase in productivity required if we are to retain our place as an advanced industrial nation and the means to create the wealth to pay the high rewards men have the right to expect."

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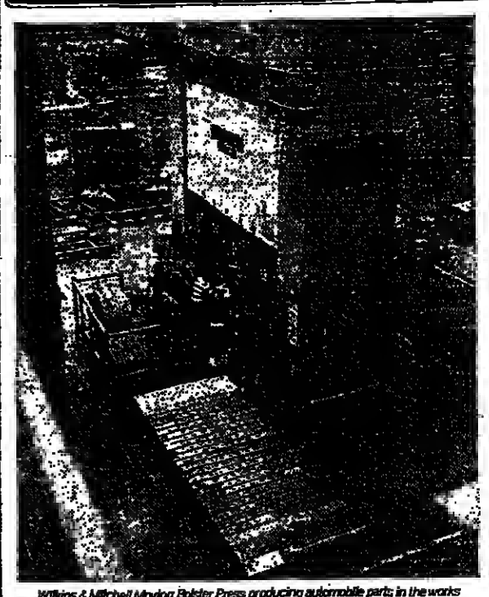

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Hard way to make a living

There are easier ways of making a living than selling machine tools abroad. Exporting successfully, as one company director put it, is "hard graft, a very sweaty business indeed".

What British machine tool men still have in their favour, however, is a general image of integrity which the competition often finds hard to beat. The Germans may be good, aggressive sellers, the Japanese inscrutably expert and the Americans innovative but the United Kingdom salesman has respectability on his side.

In the coming months the industry's representatives will need all the help they can get. As world trade begins to expand once again, the available business is going to go to those who can offer the best terms, the best technical back-up service and, above all, the best delivery times.

Mr Peter Shore, Secretary of State for Trade, said recently that as important as winning export orders was the need to take the back-up decisions at home to make as sure as possible that orders won would be honoured on time.

Not that the machine-tool men really need reminding of those basic truths. Their most frustrating trouble is undoubtedly going to be caused by a shortage of capacity at home to cope with the upturn in world demand when it comes.

The industry has certainly worked hard abroad to rid itself of the image that it cannot deliver on time because of strikes. The machine-tool makers have an enviable record in industrial relations, apart from one or two isolated cases, and have made big improvements to their delivery capability. If the experience of some United Kingdom customers is anything to go by, the Germans are now the ones who need to improve.

Mr George Trowbridge, president of the Machine Tool Trades Association, says the industry's export performance proves it is not a "lame duck" industry. "Our endeavours overseas will not diminish, but we need and must have a healthy strong home market with which progressively to develop and expand our range of products if we are to continue to be a net exporting industry."

Fighting well...

Britain's machine - tool makers have fought hard to retain their position in world export markets, a task that has become increasingly arduous as a result of a deteriorating home market and the ubiquitous debilitating effects of the trading cycle.

According to figures from the European Committee for Cooperation of the Machine Tool Industries, the United Kingdom is now seventh in the world league of machine tool exporters. West Germany is by far the world leader with £2,000m worth of machines sold abroad in 1974, four times more than its nearest rival, the United States.

Next come Switzerland, Italy, Japan, France and then Britain whose total exports of new and used machine tools in 1974 totalled 41,502 units worth almost £107m.

For last year total overseas sales were up to £164m but that was largely because of inflation and the number of machines sold fell to about 30,000.

A glance at the industry's figures show that the United States was the top customer, buying machine tools worth £17.8m. Next was South Africa, a market that could suffer this year because of political difficulties, which spent £13.5m. Then came Poland, France, Spain, West Germany and Brazil.

The list shows that the British industry exported to no fewer than 146 countries last year. At the bottom of the table were the Faroe Islands which bought one small machine tool worth just £200.

Other unlikely corners of the world where the British sold lathes, turning and milling machines or other bits of equipment last year include the Canary Islands, the Ivory Coast, Togo, Somalia, the Seychelles, Afghanistan, the New Hebrides, Tonga and the Falkland Islands.

At the end of 1974 there was a real danger that Britain, which had spawned the name Alfred Herbert and led the world in better days, could become a net importer of machine tools.

The industry has performed consistently well on exports but, because of the steadily increasing volume of imports, the trade balance in the United Kingdom's favour was eroded from £46.6m in 1971 to £7.7m in 1974. The slide was aggravated by the fact that there has been a growing trend to import the big and more costly machines which have disappeared in some cases from the list of domestically manufactured products.

Imports last year jumped from £99.1m the previous year to an estimated £115.7m, but the British export salesmen were not to be outdone and after achieving the overseas sales figure of £164m our trade surplus once again reached the healthy level of £48m.

Some interesting pictures emerge when the industry's overseas trade figures are broken down. In the first 10 months of 1975, when total exports were worth £136m, £48.8m worth of equipment went to Western Europe, £15m to Comecon countries, £19.6m to North America, and £7.8m to the Middle East.

The size and potential of markets in Third World countries also become immediately apparent. In the 10 months sales to the Commonwealth were worth just over £20m but total sales to developing nations stood at £31.4m.

With no sign of a government plan along the lines advocated by the industry to counter the cycle, the United Kingdom machine-tool manufacturers will again this year be bolstering struggling home sales with big export sales drives.

There should be some big orders around, particularly towards the end of the year and specifically from East Europe and the Middle East. This year's trade figures will get a considerable boost, for example, from the completion of a £14m order from the Soviet Union to Staveley.

The chief danger, mostly in special purpose machines, is that the crop of bankruptcies of recent times may lead to a serious lack of capacity which, if taken up by exports, will lead to a sucking-in of more imports.

Nevertheless, the race is on to win orders wherever possible, with companies searching out new markets. One of them is Matrix-Churchill International, the export sales organization of Tube Investments' machine division, which has spent the past two years studying the Egyptian market and a few weeks ago staged two seminars in Cairo, the first organized by a British machine-tool company, to show off its wares.

But perhaps the biggest orders this year will come from Poland which is being reequipped by Massey - Ferguson - Perkins under a deal worth more than £150m, signed two years ago with a huge tractor building complex at Ursus near Warsaw. The development is backed by a British line of credit, so machine-tool orders should come to United Kingdom producers.

Among the companies in the front line for this business will be Kearney and Trecker Marwin whose managing director, Mr Ken Coates, is also hoping for big things from the Soviet Union, Hungary, Iran and South Africa.

...often beaten

Exporting machine tools is a difficult enough job but selling them to those countries at the opposite end of the political, economic and cultural spectrum calls for particular exertions.

While British manufacturers have had some notable successes in the communist nations and the Middle East, too often do they appear to be beaten by the competition and too few of them are prepared to fight with the same ruthlessness as the West Germans or Japanese to gain and maintain a foothold.

The Machine Tool Trades Association, which leads its members on numerous sorties into foreign markets either to take part in exhibitions or on straight sales missions, is constantly gingering companies to keep up the pressure on potential customers.

After a mission to Hungary last autumn the official report stated: "The important consideration . . . is the necessity to ensure that you or your appointed agent visit the market at a proper frequency that will enable you to keep abreast of developments and be available when opportunities present themselves."

After the Brno Engineering Fair in Czechoslovakia last September, United Kingdom participants were told by the MTTA's export officer, Mr David Bromige: "There is certainly a desire on the part of the Czechs to buy British to offset a heavy reliance on West Germany, but they assure us we must make the effort.

"There is no point in coming to Brno just once. We are told that to penetrate, attendance over two or three years is required, as well as back-up visits during each year."

Attempting to sell machine tools to the East Europeans in particular can be frustrating and disheartening. "It's a miserable business", Mr Ken Coates, managing director of Kearney and Trecker Marwin, says. "These are very difficult markets. The terms are always tough and they screw you as hard as they can. You have to fall on your face a couple of times before you are accepted."

One of the toughest markets appears to be Hungary and certainly this tends to be confirmed by the statistics which show that in the first 10 months of 1975, United Kingdom manufacturers sold just four machine tools, worth a little over £87,000, to the Hungarians, a much depressed figure compared with the previous few years.

After last year's mission, MTTA members were warned to expect negotiations with the Hungarians to be difficult and to be faced with requests to enter into counter-deals, the modern polite alternative name for barter deals.

The association report stated: "It has been known in the past for a company to be saddled with 14,000 teddy bears as part of a counter deal. However, in the machine tool context it is quite possible that the suggestion of purchasing Hungarian machine tools will arise."

Present Hungarian policy is to suggest that on a particular deal, 30 per cent of the contract should be taken by the seller in Hungarian machine tools. Alternatively, the seller is expected to give priority to Hungarian equipment when considering investment plans for his own company.

The MTTA commented: "During this time of recession the competition becomes, of course, much stronger in the countries where business is available. The East block area has been particularly beneficial to the British machine-tool industry of late and with new five-year plans emerging, competition will be tough. Naturally, the Hungarians will endeavour to make the most of this fact.

"It can be expected that the strongest competition will come from West Germany, particularly also as their industry is not in too healthy a state at present. The only answer is to keep up your own pressure in the market—only by doing this can you be assured of not missing the boat."

But possibly the most fascinating of the world machine-tool markets is China, a fairly minor purchaser of British equipment but with a huge potential for the future. In the first 10 months of 1975 Britain sold 49 machine tools to China worth £1.1m.

Twenty one United Kingdom companies, including most of the big names, took part in the British Machine Tool and Scientific Instruments Exhibition in Shanghai last year and the interest shown towards them by the Chinese was said to have been enormous.

However, there was a darker side to the event. Mr Bromige reported that there were the usual attempts by Chinese engineers to extract technical information. He said suspiciously that some machines "were tampered with during the night".

The British were also taken aback by the Chinese desire to extract the maximum amount of discount on machine tool purchases, calling them "exhibition" or "friendship" discounts. The magnitude of the sought-after reductions, about 30 per cent, was, Mr Bromige said, "naturally completely unacceptable". Not only were they exhorbitant, but acceptance on an exhibitor's part would certainly infer similar practice on future business.

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BRITISH FUNDS

Stock outstanding £	Stock	Price last Friday	Ch'ge on week	Int earned to date	Gross redemp. Yield
800m	Treas 6¾% 1978	99⅝	+⅛	6.560	6.765
900m	Treas 10½% 1976	100⅛	+⅛	10.400	8.978
850m	Treas 6¾% 1977	97¼	..	6.406	8.907
1000m	Elec 3% 1974-77	95⅝	+¼	3.185	6.597
600m	Treas 13½% 1977	102⅞	+⅛	11.240	6.786
850m	Treas 3% 1977	92¾	+⅛	3.231	7.673
242m	Treas 4% 1972-77	93½	+⅛	4.277	8.054
1500m	Treas 9% 1978	97¾	+⅛	9.196	10.196
500m	Treas 10½% 1978	100⅝	+⅛	10.486	10.429
400m	Exch 5% 1976-78	92⅝	+⅛	5.427	8.340
500m	Treas 3% 1979	87½	+½	3.434	7.110
600m	Treas 11¾% 1979	101⅝	+⅛	11.322	10.853
275m	Elec 4½% 1974-79	88½	..	4.807	8.064
600m	Treas 10½% 1979	97⅝	+⅛	10.749	11.278
250m	Elec 3½% 1976-79	85½	..	4.046	7.817
1000m	Treas Cnv 9% 1980	93⅝	+⅛	9.808	11.002
400m	Treas 9% 1980	93¾	+⅛	10.133	11.432
300m	Fund 5¾% 1978-80	87¼	+⅛	6.018	8.927
262m	Treas 3½% 1977-80	83	..	4.118	7.723
600m	Treas 11½% 1981	100⅝	+⅛	11.422	11.392
453m	Treas 3½% 1979-81	82⅞	+⅛	4.243	7.881
861m	Treas 9% 1980-82	90	+⅛	8.413	11.257
800m	Treas. 12% 1983	100	+⅛	12.021	12.032
500m	Fund 5½% 1982-84	77½	+⅛	7.227	9.968
600m	Treas 9½% 1984-86	84¼	+⅛	10.288	11.429
339m	Fund 6½% 1985-87	72¾	+⅛	8.227	11.389
300m	Treas 7½% 1985-88	73¾	+⅛	10.855	12.155
1052m	Treas 3% 1978-88	47½	+⅛	6.405	10.996
500m	Treas 5½% 1986-89	53½	+⅛	9.312	11.995
600m	Treas 8½% 1987-90	71¾	+⅛	11.889	12.023
600m	Treas 13% 1990	98¼	+⅛	13.363	13.463
400m	Fund 9½% 1987-92	93¾	+⅛	10.880	12.710
600m	Treas 12½% 1992	94¼	+⅛	13.843	13.584
300m	Treas 13½% 1993	93¾	+⅛	13.000	14.085
600m	Fund 9% 1993	50¾	+⅛	11.823	13.329
900m	Treas 9% 1994	49¼	+⅛	13.297	13.853
41m	Bdmpts 3% 1995-98	11½	+⅛	3.388	11.969
214m	Gas 3% 1990-95	33½	+⅛	9.231	12.223
500m	Treas 12¾% 1995	95¾	+⅛	14.049	14.145
600m	Treas 9% 1992-96	77	+⅛	13.471	13.988
750m	Treas 13½% 1997	95¾	+⅛	14.163	14.211
1000m	Treas 6¾% 1995-98	65¾	+⅛	13.243	13.988
600m	Treas 6¾% 1997	64½	+⅛	13.599	14.033
600m	Treas 9½% 1999	70¾	+⅛	13.745	14.030
443m	Fund 3½% 1999-04	35¼	+⅛	12.484	13.757
600m	Treas 8% 2002-06	57¾	+⅛	13.934	14.101
986m	Treas 5½% 2008-12	40	+⅛	13.817	13.964
600m	Treas 7¾% 2012-15	54¾	+⅛	14.081	14.125
265m	Consols 4%	25¾	+⅛	14.507	..
1969m	War Ln 3½%	29¾	..	12.074	..
275m	Conv 3½%	25¾	+⅛	12.810	..
56m	Treas 3%	21	..	14.212	..
276m	Consols 2½%	17¾	..	14.111	..
482m	Treas 2½% Aft 75	17¾	..	14.245	..

COMMONWEALTH AND FOREIGN

Stock outstanding £	Stock	Price last Friday	Ch'ge on week	Int earned to date	Gross redemp. Yield
12m	Aust 5½% 76-78	88	..	4.220	11.333
12m	Aust 5½% 77-80	80¼	..	6.349	12.620
20m	Aust 5½% 81-83	70¾	+¼	7.736	12.313
10m	Aust 6% 83-85	70	..	8.788	12.367
16m	Aust 6% 74-76	97¼	..	6.144	6.122
14m	Aust 7% 79-81	78	..	8.891	12.923
—	Berlin 4½% Ann	32	..	—	—
—	Chilean Mixed	95	..	—	—
8m	E Africa 5½% 71-83	65¾	..	8.302	14.441
—	German 4½% 1930	192	..	—	—
—	Hungary 4½% 1924	21	+½	..	..
—	Ireland 7½% 81-83	73¾	+⅛	..	..
3m	Jamaica 7½% 77-79	85¾	..	8.176	15.781
—	Japan Ann 4% 1910	175	..	—	—
—	Japan 5½% 83-86	67¾	..	—	—
4m	Kenya 5½% 78-82	64	..	7.886	14.348
7m	Malaya 7½% 75-82	78½	..	0.639	12.703
12m	N Z 6% 76-80	80¼	..	7.500	12.635
14m	N Z 7½% 80-92	56¾	+⅛	12.115	14.483
12m	N Z 7½% 83-86	69½	..	11.089	11.474
3m	N Rhd 6% 73-81	80	..	7.393	11.384
1m	Nyasa 6% 73-81	70	..	7.583	11.664
—	Peru 6% Ann	150	..	—	—
—	S A Gov 5½% 74-76	95¾	..	—	—
20m	S Rhd 5½% 62-70	74	..	—	—
5m	S Rhd 6% 78-81	48	..	—	—
—	Spanish 4%	56	..	—	—
4m	Tang 5½% 75-82	66¾	..	8.643	14.323
—	Uruguay 3½%	70	..	—	—

LOCAL AUTHORITIES

Stock outstanding £	Stock	Price last Friday	Ch'ge on week	Int earned to date	Gross redemp. Yield
20m	L C C 3% 1920	20	-1	13.255	..
22m	L C C 3½% 60-63	42	-1	9.028	13.441
15m	L C C 5½% 71-73	70	-1	7.858	13.364
30m	L C C 5½% 83-84	62	-1½	8.002	13.178
25m	L C C 5½% 85-87	54	-1½	10.433	13.898
20m	L C C 6% 75-78	91	-4	6.589	11.283
20m	L C C 6% 76-79	85	..	7.207	12.002
25m	L C C 6¾% 85-90	54	..	12.292	14.787
30m	G L C 6¾% 1976	95¾	..	6.633	9.965
20m	G L C 6¾% 1977	90¾	..	6.731	10.587
40m	G L C 6¾% 90-92	57	+½	12.008	14.700
20m	G L C 6¾% 1977-82	49	..	7.354	10.774
25m	G L C 9½% 92-94	62¾	..	11.379	13.356
12m	C of L 6¾% 75-78	89	..	7.289	11.510
10m	C of L 8½% 80-82	71¾	..	9.198	13.542
17m	Ag Mt 7½% 81-84	70¾	-½	10.873	13.701
20m	Ag Mt 7½% 84-86	64¾	-½	12.673	14.991
12m	Ag Mt 6½% 85-90	53	..	13.153	14.489
10m	Belfast 6½% 77-80	73	-½	8.699	11.999
5m	Brighton 6½% 76-79	84¾	..	7.608	12.153
15m	Camden 6½% 77-79	85¾	..	7.616	12.564
15m	Croydon 6½% 78-81	79¾	-½	9.191	13.574
10m	Edin 6½% 79-81	75¾	..	9.584	12.391
20m	Glasgow 6½% 80-82	74¾	-½	11.334	13.255
20m	Gwich 6½% 78-79	89¾	..	7.937	12.800
10m	Herts 6½% 75-77	94¾	..	7.122	10.972
15m	Liverpl 7½% 76-77	94¾	..	7.283	10.966
27m	Mel Water B	21¾	-½	13.931	14.896
15m	N I 6½% 78-80	76	..	8.547	13.005
20m	N I 7% 79-84	62¾	..	11.633	13.858
5m	N I Elec 6½% 81-83	62¾	..	10.478	15.645
5m	Notts 6½% 78-81	79¾	..	7.539	11.380
5m	Shfmd 6½% 77-79	82¾	..	8.344	12.587
10m	Swark 6½% 83-86	62¾	-½	11.037	13.817
12m	Surrey 6½% 78-80	78½	..	7.343	12.680

Capitalization £	Company	Price last Friday	Ch'ge on week	Gross div yld	P/E
Investment Dollar Premium		16¼c	+¼c	(18¾c)	
Premium Conversion Factor		5.6721			

FOREIGN STOCKS

Capitalization £	Company	Price last Friday	Ch'ge on week	Gross div yld	P/E
1,747.6m	Bayer	185¾	+¾	3.56	8.4
—	Commerzbank	117¾	..	3.26	13.3
369.8m	Cp Fn Paris	130½	+¼	5.64	11.6
368.4m	EBES	148	-2½	1.99	5.8
451.3m	Ericsson	135	+1¼	6.3b	1.8
—	Fiat	34	-½	..	..
152.2m	Fujitsu	231	..	1.30	6.3
—	Hoechst	139	+16	16.2	3.2
—	Montecatini E	40	-7	..	..
22.5m	NSPO NV	220	..	96.1	4.9
—	Roberts N.V.	361	-2	23.1	4.8
344.3m	Rolinco Sobe B	420	-6	4.5	11.7
63.2m	Solv Viscosa	150	-10	4.6	3.2
—	Thyssen-Huette	130	+10	24.8	3.8
—	Volkswagen	145½	-1	..	..

DOLLAR STOCKS

Capitalization £	Company	Price last Friday	Ch'ge on week	Gross div yld	P/E
239.5m	Brascan	157¼	-⅛	49.5	3.3
—	BP Canada	17¾	-¼	..	..
922.6m	Can Pac Utd	112¾	..	4.3	5.8
276.9m	BI Pasa	210½	..	41.7	4.9
—	Exxon Corp	88	..	—	—
389.5m	Fluor	126	-2½	29.7	1.1
—	Hollinger	136¾	-¼	—	—
837.3m	Hud Bay Dil	128¾	+⅛	28.5	1.0
—	Husky Oil	116¾	+¼	—	—
90.8m	Int Bldgs	211½	..	29.2	1.9
1,116.9m	Int Nickel	230¾	+¼	72.5	12.0
283.2m	IU Int	89¾	-⅛	43.0	5.1
474.3m	Kaiser Alum	124¾	+¼	58.1	2.4
422.0m	Massey-Ferg	122¾	..	48.5	2.1
789.5m	Norton Simon	114¾	..	24.7	1.8
—	Pacific Petrol	223¾	-¼	—	—
—	Pan Canadian	116¾	..	—	—
—	Steep Rock	166	+14	..	..
—	Trans Can P	21¾	..	..	..
3,426.1m	Dl Steel	283¾	-⅛	..	..
13.2m	White Pass	700	..	16.3	2.3
103.1m	Zapata Corp	82½	-¼	15.0b	1.6

BANKS AND DISCOUNTS

Capitalization £	Company	Price last Friday	Ch'ge on week	Gross div yld	P/E
10.6m	Alexs Discount	220	-5	15.0	8.2
8,175.0m	Allied N & Ross	430	-5	28.5	8.9
11.7m	Arb-Lafboun	175	-5	12.7b	7.3
141.3m	Aust & NZ	385	..	14.3	8.3
70.5m	Bk Bermudas	30	..	0.9	2.8
66.4m	Bk of Ireland	229	-20	18.0	5.0
61.6m	Bk Leumi Israel	21	..	1.1	9.1
4,200.0m	Bk Leumi DR	216	..	11.3	5.3
336.5m	Bk of NSW	430	-10	18.2	2.8
627.7m	Bk of N Scotia	230½	+⅛	18.2	8.3
83.8m	Bk of Scotland	280	-20	19.2	5.1
373.7m	Bnks Trst NY	225¾	+¼	19.4	7.1
332.9m	Barclays Bank	275	-10	13.8	5.8
4,606.0m	Bates N Bldgs	32	..	—	—
0.778.0m	Brown Shipley	170	-7	11.6	4.3
6,640.0m	Cater Ryder	295	-10	21.9	5.6
733.5m	Chase Man	222½	+¼	109	4.6
3,396.3m	Citicorp	128¾	+¼	43.0	..
8,000.0m	Clive Discount	64	-½	5.2	5.8
503.0m	Com Bk of Aust	290	-10	25.7	5.4
83.2m	Com Bk of Syd	205	-10	8.1	5.0
2,301.0m	CC De France	125½	-¼	77.0	5.0
2,301.0m	First Nat Fin	2	..	—	—
8,303.0m	Fraser Ann	19	..	11	8.5
20.1m	Gerrard & Nat	270	-15	20.3	7.8
0,240.0m	Gibbs A.	48	+1	11.5	4.8
3,989.0m	Gilbert Bros	195	+5	20.0	10.3
10.5m	Grindlays Bldgs	31	-1	..	..
45.0m	Guinness Peat	175	-12	12.8b	7.5
8,000.0m	Hambros £10	120	..	119	5.0
34.9m	Do Ord	205	-5	11.9	5.0
64.4m	Hill Samuel	110	-4	6.0	5.4
1,127.9m	Hong K & Shang	125	-6	3.9b	1.8
2,007.0m	Israel Brit	220	..	15.6	4.8
6,162.0m	Jessel Toynbee	73	-2	5.2	0.4
4,731.0m	Joseph L	180	..	18.0	5.0
24.1m	Kayser Ullmann	47	-1	..	..
4,400.0m	King & Shaxson	85	-5	4.7	2.7
56.5m	Kleinwort Ben	110	-6	8.3	4.8
353.6m	Lloyds Bank	212	-11	11.4b	6.4
49.9m	Mercury Secs	116	-20	4.2	3.0
357.5m	Midland	278	-5	17.7	6.3
17.0m	Minster Assets	30	-3½	4.6	8.1
237.1m	Nat W Assoc	275	-15	8.4b	1.0
135.0m	Nat Com Bk Grp	60	-2	3.3	4.8
423.0m	Nat Westminster	230	-16	19.3	5.7
13.0m	Ottoman	225	-½	140	5.4
3,518.6m	Rea Bros	69	-10	3.9	3.0
883.1m	Royal of Can	221¾	-¼	63.9	2.9
28.1m	Schroders	335	-15	13.4	4.8
2,880.0m	Secoombe Mar	280	-10	19.2	7.3
30.1m	Slatr Walker	27	+3	..	..
4,158.0m	Smith St Aubyn	157	-6	5.5	0.7
251.5m	Standard Chart	364	-9	24.2b	6.7
24.0m	Union Discount	320	-15	36.4	4.3
3,738.0m	Wintrust	53	..	4.3	6.5

BREWERIES AND DISTILLERIES

Capitalization £	Company	Price last Friday	Ch'ge on week	Gross div yld	P/E
209.0m	Allied	64	-3½	4.2	7.7
258.9m	Bass Charrgton	94	-7	8.1	6.4
21.5m	Bell A.	156	+2	6.6	8.4
10.0m	Boddingtons	74	..	6.6	3.2
9,289.0m	Brown M.	65	-2	4.3	8.5
10.2m	Bulmer H. P.	102	-5	4.2	4.1
2,472.0m	Burtonwood	58	-2	3.9	6.1
20.5m	G of Lda Dtd	63	-1	3.1	7.2
4,828.0m	Devenish	172	-2	7.1	6.6
228.5m	Distillers	143	-5½	8.3	6.7
11.8m	Greene King	140	-5	6.7	4.8
197.3m	Guinness	135	-5	8.5	7.0
4,400.0m	Hardy & Nsons	118	-2	6.3	7.7
14.8m	Highland	110	-3	7.3	6.6
6,117.0m	Invergordon	32	-3	2.7	8.4
12.3m	Irish Distillers	34	-3	3.3	6.0
9,208.0m	Marston	36	-3	2.5	8.3
146.9m	Scot & Newcastle	34	-1	4.3	7.2
786.0m	Seagram	225	-4	38.6	1.8
143.4m	SA Breweries	215	-3	12.6	5.8
3,127.0m	Tesco	53	-1	3.7	6.7
2,982.8m	Tomatin	83	-12	30.4b	7.5
15.6m	Vaux	273	-2	4.6	7.1
128.9m	Whitbread 'A'	65	-6	4.6	7.2
7,191.0m	Do 'B'	65	-6	4.6	7.5
24.3m	Whitbread Inv	115	-5	7.9	6.3
22.1m	Wolverhampton	137	-1	7.9	8.3

Capitalization £	Company	Price last Friday	Ch'ge on week	Gross div yld	P/E
	COMMERCIAL AND INDUSTRIAL				
	A — B				
8,190.000	AAH	161	-5	14.0b	6.5
1,926.000	AB Electronic	69	-4	6.2	10.6
640.000	AC Cars	32	-1	2.6	4.4
12.5m	AD Intl	21	..	3.3	7.8
2,192.000	ADB Research	128	-1	13.7	5.3
30.1m	APV Hldgs	62	-3	3.3b	5.3
11.9m	AVP Ind	57	-2	2.5	4.3
11.9m	Aaronson Bros	57	-4	2.2b	14.3
300.000	Abrasives Int	13	..	0.1	4.7
2,586.000	Acrow	120	-5	6.1	5.1
31.8m	Do A	33	+5	1.6	5.1
5,488.000	Adams Food	83	..	..	..
1,088.000	Adde Inl	9½	-1	..	..
10.4m	Adwest Group	150	..	3.7	6.5
286.000	Aeruo'l & Gen.	10	-1	1.5	0.6
700.000	Airfix Ind	119	-3	4.4	3.1
9,446.000	Do NV	80½	..	3.6	4.2
112.5m	Albright & W	96	-2	6.8	6.0
3,800.000	Alcan 10½%	117½	..	900	19.6
0,000.000	Do 9% Cnv	223	..	19.3	0.6
11.0m	Alginate Ind	74	-5	5.1b	8.2
14.6m	Allen S. Balfour	19	-2	3.8	15.2
1,065.000	Allen W. G.	48	+1	1.6	3.7
12.0m	Alliance Alders	100	-5	1.0	1.5
12.3m	Allied Colloids	26	..	2.6	5.7
3,105.000	Allied Insulators	36½	..	1.00	4.9
861.000	Allied Plant	20½	-1	6.86	9.3
13.1m	Allied Polymer	24	-2	1.4b	6.1
1,180.000	Allied Retailers	121	-1	7.4b	6.1
2,100.000	Alpine Hldgs	21	-2	1.3	6.5
14.5m	Amal Metal	223	-10	19.5	6.3
5,261.000	Amal Power	32	-1	4.7	8.9
2,520.000	Amber Day	22	-2½	6.2b	14.5
165.000	Amber Ind Hldgs	7	..	0.6c	6.9
1,150.000	Anchor Chem	47	-3	3.5	11.0
12.7m	Anderson Strath	42	-1	2.3	7.5
2,810.000	Anglo Am Asbn	174	-1	10.0	5.7
139.6m	Anglo Amer Ind	530	+20	37.4	7.1
725.000	Ang Swiss Hldgs	28	-2	..	..
542.000	Anglowest	22	..	2.5	11.4
2,500.000	Appleyard	48	-1	3.7	12.3
1,000.000	Aquascutum 'A'	31	-4	10.0b	12.3
2,664.000	Arlington Sec	18	-1	6.0	11.2
13.0m	Armitage Shanks	66	-2½	2.7	4.0
15.1m	Armst Equip	46	..	4.3	15.7
102.000	Asprey 6½% Pf	41	..	4.4	15.1
24.6m	Ass Biscuit	70	-1	4.0	8.7
5,845.000	Do A	70	-1	2.5	4.0
204.1m	Ass Brit Food	82	..	5.1	11.3
65.6m	Ass Engineer	90	-3½	5.8b	6.3
4,042.000	Ass Fisheries	22	-1	..	..
1,796.000	Ass Leisure	37	-3	3.0	12.9
33.7m	Ass News	111	-7	4.5	4.0
3,285.000	Ass Paper	37	-1	4.4	10.6
150.8m	Ass Port Cement	186	-8	11.0	5.9
31.3m	Ass Tel 'A'	76	-5	4.6	7.4
461.000	Ass Tooling	26	-1	3.0	11.9
1,007.000	Asthurst & Idler	23	..	1.4	6.4
578.000	Atwood Garage	18	-1	2.2	12.4
4,961.000	Audiotronic	44	-6	5.0	11.4
5,894.000	Ault & Wiborg	39	-1	4.0	10.3
2,921.000	Aurora Hldgs	69	+1	8.0	16.0
402.000	Austin E.	32	-2	4.8	15.8
10.8m	Automotive Pd	53	-2	2.3	4.4
42.4m	Avery	115	..	5.6	8.9
4,845.000	Avon Rubber	73	-5	1.8	2.2
20.2m	BBA Grp	66	-3	3.9a	5.8
140.4m	BICC	125	-10	19.3	6.0
157.7m	BOC Int	612	-13	3.7	6.8
62.9m	BPB Ind	144	-1	8.6b	6.0
420.000	BPM Bldgs 'A'	30	+1	3.9	13.1
8,678.000	BSG Int	224	-2½	..	..
79.4m	BSR Ltd	107	-2	5.3	13.1
156.7m	BTR Ltd	196	-7	16.0	6.4
86.1m	Babcock & W	78	-1	5.6a	3.8
1,161.000	Bacal Const	25	f ..	0.9m	..
1,080.000	Baggeridge Brk	27	-3	2.9	10.3
2,305.000	Bailey C.S. Ord	5	-½	0.3	5.4
11.5m	Baird W.	105	-7	11.3	11.3
14.8m	Baker Perkins	62	-7	3.4b	6.7
4,334.000	Bamberger	14	-2	3.7	4.5
2,588.000	Barker & Dobson	4	..	..	..
169.6m	Barlow Rand	172	-13	13.1	7.8
570.000	Barr & Wallace	57	-2	4.5	7.4
1,649.000	Do A	56	-2	4.2	7.8
21.8m	Barrett Devs	211	-1	6.2	5.8
3,130.000	Barrow Hepbn	47	-4	4.4	9.4
7,552.000	Bartoe & Sons	48	-7	1.8	8.6
9,145.000	Bassett G.	76	-4	4.5	8.5
5,863.000	Bath & P'land	30	-3	4.1	16.4
1,590.000	Baxter Pell	93	-2	8.1	8.7
843.000	Beale J.	22	..	..	..
3,898.000	Beatson Clark	92	..	5.8	6.5
1,397.000	Beauford Grp	43	+2	6.0	8.1
1,793.000	Beaverbrook	110	..	2.5e	2.3
6,900.000	Do A	23½	..	2.2	6.0
5,728.000	Beckman A.	66	-3½	5.0b	10.0
513.0m	Beecham Grp	353	-7	8.3	2.3
16.3m	Bejam Grp	73	-5	3.2a	4.4
3,847.000	Bemrose Corp	67	-2	3.8	8.1
1,409.000	Bens Bros	61	-1	2.1	3.1
38.3m	Berisford S. & W.	143	-1	3.1	3.8
1,296.000	Berkshire Hldgs	83	+1	3.1	3.8
2,592.000	Berwick Timpo	83	-4	3.8b	7.1
19.1m	Bestobell	150	..	11.2	7.4
6,318.000	Bett Bros	43	-2	6.1	8.1
7,125.000	Bibby J.	87	+4	7.7	8.8
405.000	Billam J.	7	..	4.5c	14.3
44.3m	Birmid Qualcast	71	..	5.6	7.9
1,180.000	Birm'ham Mint	59	-4	5.5	9.3
2,422.000	Bishops Stores	140	..	3.0	2.1
2,753.000	Do A NV	48	..	3.0	..
5,897.000	Black & Edr'gh	118	-5	8.0	6.7
1,705.000	Blackman & C	18½	-3	2.4	12.1
37.3m	Blackwd Hodge	140	-11	8.0	4.3
2,160.000	Blackwood Hr	27	-8	..	..
2,963.000	Blagdon & N	131	-1	10.0	5.7
3,184.000	Blundell Perm	58	..	3.6	7.2
1,814.000	Boardman K. O.	5½	..	1.2	14.3
3,804.000	Bodycote	14½	-1	1.09	7.0
1,369.000	Bolton Textile	14½	..	1.8	13.0
456.000	Bonas Webb	27	..	..	..
1,580.000	Bonser Eng	25	..	1.8	7.2
33.9m	Booker McConn	123	-5	8.9	7.5
473.7m	Boots	133	-3	8.8	5.7
3,842.000	Boston W.	71	-1	1.8	3.2
246.1m	Bowater Corp	134	-7	10.6b	5.6
15.8m	Bowthrpe Hldgs	38	-1	1.9	6.6
2,265.000	Brady Lestie	62	-6	4.8b	7.7
1,128.000	Brady Ind	71	..	6.0	11.2
2,156.000	Do A	70	-1	5.0	11.4
2,572.000	Braham Miller	36	+1½	3.2a	3.9
1,360.000	Braid Grp	23	-½	1.7	7.2
1,438.000	Braithwaite	105	-2	10.7	8.8
5,246.000	Brammer H.	90	-4	6.2	7.1
1,725.000	Brenner	44	..	5.1	11.3
4,000.000	Brent Chem Int	100	-1	3.6	8.3
2,580.000	Brent Walker	37	-1	1.4	6.3
3,893.000	Brickhouse Dud.	26	-6	2.8	10.3
62.5m	Bridon	167	+3	8.5b	5.1
1,870.000	Brierley's	44	1 ..	3.5	7.8
3,286.000	Bright J. Grp	11	..	3.3	20.3
803.000	Bristol Plant	6	..	..	..
300.6m	Brit Am Tob	354	-10	17.2	6.8
3,637.000	Brit Car Auctn	43½	-½	3.3	7.2
6,045.000	Brit Enkalon	64	-4	9.4	7.1
183.7m	Brit Home Strs.	369	-7	16.7b	4.4
2,915.000	Brit Ind Hldgs	23	..	2.2	3.6
75.0m	Brit Leyland	27½	-½	..	..
2,373.000	Brit Mohair	22	-1	1.9	7.8
18.4m	Brit Printing	41	-2½	4.5	9.2
8,354.000	Brit Rollmakers	39	-1½	3.7	6.4
6,306.000	Brit Sta Spec	74	-1	7.1b	8.8
36.0m	Brit Sugar	380	-5	19.5	3.0
3,630.000	Brit Tar Prod	37	-1½	2.1	5.6
4,170.000	Brit Vita	81	-5	5.4	8.0
2,508.000	Britains	34	-1½	4.3	13.2
0,060.000	Brockhouse J.	34	..	4.5	8.4
3,490.000	Brocks Grp	42	-½	4.1	8.7
1,440.8m	Broken Hill	735	..	18.8	5.6
3,032.000	Brush Sh Bar	44	-4	4.7	10.5
80.1m	Brooke Bond	30	-2	3.7b	9.4
423.000	Brooke Tool	16	-1	..	..
2,903.000	Brotherhood P.	89	-5	6.8	6.2
7,705.000	Brown & Tawse	85	+1	3.2	3.7
9,000.000	BBK	72	..	1.5b	4.7
6,715.000	Brown Bros Cp	14¾	-¾	6.6

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THE TIMES
BUSINESS NEWS

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Money supply expanded sharply in February after three months of decline

By Tim Coegdon

An exceptionally sharp rise in the money supply occurred in February, after three months of decline. M1, the narrowly defined supply which includes notes and coin and current accounts, rose by 5 per cent, accordieg te figures released today by the Bank of England.

However, interpretation of the statistics is made more than usually difficult by changes in the pattern of tax payments in the present financial year. These changes have distorted the seasonal adjustment, which the Bank describes as "particularly hazardous and likely to be revised in the light of later information".

M3, the broadly defined money supply which includes M1 and deposit accounts, rose by 2½ per ceet in February. In the last three months it has beee increasing at an annual rate of 11 per ceet.

The jump in M1 in February has causad the annual rate of increase in the past three months to rise to 24.3 per cent. This is the highest rate since last September, but it would be misleading to attach too much importance to it since it follows a short peried of zere growth at the turn of the year.

Within the rise in M1 in February there was an unusually large rise, of about £280m, in private sector funds placed at call with both banks and discount bouses. The Bank of England suggests that this rise may be "ectratic".

It is thougbt that companies may have been building up balances in advance of tax payments in March. When the payments are made, the proportien of funds on call in total current accounts may decline to a more nermal level.

Although special factors are clearly responsible for much ef the February money supply iecrease, renewed anxiety about the possible inflationary consequences is likely to develop if the monetary aggregates continue to grow at over 2 per cent a month.

The potential impact of the large pnblic aector deficit en the money supply is vividly illustrated by recent events. Until the end of January the Bank ef England conducted a big gilt-edged selling campaign which sharply curbed monetary expansion.

But February's figures shew that, with this restraining influence in abeyance, the race of money supply growth can be very fast indeed.

The public sector borrowing requirement, and the need te finance it from the banking system because of the absence of gilt sales, was the only influence increasieg the meney stock. Sterling lending to the private sector, still subdued by the recession, fell by £125m.

Authorities are not believed to view the February increase with alarm. It is coesidered te be a necessary counterweight te the low rate of money supply growth from Octeber to January and is still consistent with the Government's present objective te finance the public sector borrowing requirement in e non-inflatienary way.

No guidance has been given about the rate of money supply growth deemed te be compatible with this objective and it is uncertain if the Government does have a specific target in mind.

It is certain, however, that if M3 growth at over 2 per cent a month continues fer the next two or three months, a rise ie interest rates will be essential in promote gilt sales and to check lending to the private sector even further.

MONEY SUPPLY

The following are the figures released for the monthly amount of the money stock, seasonally adjusted, at the month-end make-up date:

	M1 £000m	M3 £000m	Percentage change over 3 months at Annual rate M1	M3
1975				
Feb	13.7	36.3	19.1	6.1
March	13.9	36.9	20.5	12.8
April	14.3	36.9	17.0	10.4
May	14.4	37.5	22.0	13.9
June	15.1	37.4	12.8	5.8
July	15.5	37.6	12.8	6.0
Aug	15.7	38.4	18.1	10.0
Sept	16.1	38.6	28.9	14.3
Oct	16.1	39.0	17.6	15.1
Nev	15.9	38.7	3.9	3.6
Dec	16.1	38.5	0.0	
1976				
Jan	15.9	36.9	—5.1	—1.3
Feb	16.8	39.7	24.3	11.0

Currencies prospects still causing anxiety

From Peter Norman
Bonn, March 21

European currency markets were expected to open the week in e nervous state as the prospects fer an imminent revaluation of the Deutsche mark er realignment ef currencies within the European currency float receded further this evening.

Dr Armin Grünewald, the government's deputy spokesman, repeated this afternoon that ne changes were to be expected on the monetary frent this weekeed.

On Friday, as the West German Federal Bank was still intervening heavily en the Frankfurt foreign exchange market to prevent the Belgian franc and Danish crown from dropping eur of the Eurepean currency snake, Dr Grünewald had forecast "a quiet monetary weekend".

The last member of the West German government in make any commenr on the speculative flow of funds into the mark was Dr Hans Apel, the Finance Minister.

He told a jeurnalists' club in Munich on Friday that a change in intervention points within the European floating block, and through this a revaluation of the mark, was not planned. The federal government would "disappoint all speculators".

Herr Apel said be was confident that the speculative pressure would pass "in a few days". At the time Dr Apel said that according to his information the other memhers of the snake currency fleat had no intention of changing their parities either.

Brussels: The Belgian government was today anxiously awaiting the openieg of foreign exchange markets tomorrow to see whether tbe country's currency had weathered the latest storm.

Despite declarations by Mr Leo Tindemans, the prime minister, and Mr Willy de Clerq, finance minister, on Friday that the Belgian franc's parity would not be changed, bankers here feel it cannot stand another week of severe pressure like the one just ended.

After the withdrawal of the French franc from the snake last Monday, the system came close to being torn apart be combined upward pressure en the powerful mark, and a relentless downward push against its weaker partners—the Benelux and Scandinavian currencies.

The Belgian franc, together with the Danish crown, wae the worst hit. They lay pinned to their floor levels against the mark throughout the week, forcing their central banks to intervene heavily to support them.

Bankere said the appareot abseece of any moves by snake members to take further defensive ection during the weekend indicates they are gritting their teeth in the hepe that the tensions—whicb eased slightly towards the end of lest week—weuld further diminish when trading resumes tomorrow.

Bnt the turmoil ef the past few days en foreign exchange markets has already brought about a *de facto* revaluatien of the mark against the freely-floating EEC currencies—sterling, the lira and the French franc.

By Friday the franc hed fallen 5.5 per cenr against the mark since France left the snake.

Many currency dealers clearly believe the mark should alse be revalued against its snake partners.

Some bankers bere estimate that the last two boats of currency speculaticn last month and this bave cost the Belgian national bank up to 25 per ceut ef its currency reserves.

According to the bank's own figures, it bad spent 15,000m francs (about £195m) from its reserves of just under 90,000m francs np to last Menday night ro support the franc at its snake floar against the mark.

Bur the figure for total currency reserves excludes the bank's substantial gold heldings, valued ar 71,000m francs at the old official price.—Reuter.

Unresolved questions, page 23

British Rail-NFC merger considered

By Maurice Corioa
Industrial Editor

Creation of a new natieeal transport nndertaking by mergieg British Rail and the state-owned National Freight Cerporation will be moored in the Government's statement of eptiens fer an integrated transport policy, due next month.

Consultants will be reporting within the next few months en the problems ef the once prefitable Freight Corperatien, which ewns British Road Services, Pickferds, and Natieeal Carriers. Its beard includes Lord Greene of Harrow Weald, former general secretary ef the National Unien of Railwaymen.

At present the corporatien, which is headed by Sir Daniel Petrit, Unilever's former coad transport expert, is being snpported by £8m of interim grants. It has lest about £30m ever the past 12 months and has been unable to meet its financial ebligatiens witheut Whiteball aid, given from the contingencies fund.

Meanwhile, Britisb Rail, whicb is in have a new chairman this eutumn to replace Sir Richard Marsh is about to close its boeks on another financial year ef beavy loss making.

Some of British Rail's problems are due to difficulties in fightieg road transpert for a viable sbare of the freight business, a rask in which it bas been backed by taxpayers subsidies.

The forthcoming government statement en transport policy is expected to eutline the case for putting the two nationalized enterprises together in an effort to end subsidies through mere integrated marketing and services. Such an idea may be resisted strongly by the Freight Cerporatien's chairman, for Sir Daniel recently said it was baying at the meon ro expect that integration ef transport would provide the perfect service freight customers wanted.

There is already a certain ameunt of joint working and investment as well as the ebvieus competition between road and rail. At one time the Natioeal Freight Integratien Council was ene bope of atimulating more joint plannieg, but this is now recognized as a failure.

The Transpert Act ef 1968 transferred Natieeal Carriere the road parcels and freight service, to the Freight Corporation, belped by a £60m grant for the early years. This eperation has, after soma success, suddenly beceme a problem to its parent, worsened by the economic recession.

British Rail new has a large interest in Freightliners aleegside that ef the Corporation, and studies have sbown that the auccess ef this ventore requires a substaotial traffic to cover the heavy investment costs.

Meves te start a debate en freigbr integration by structural changes in tbe state sector will form only a part ef the transport document, which is te be sent te a wide raege of interests before the Geverument takes any firm decisiens. The problems of the railways, however, ferm the largest part ef consultativa paper.

Besides the problems ef transport, the Governmeer is also heavily engaged in questiees cenceroing ether nationalized industries. The future ef the electricity supply is under deep review after the recent Plowden report, recommending the creatien ef a new structure.

A decision will bave to be taken before too leng on the reappointment ef Sir Derek Bora, chairman of the Natieeal Ceal Beard. There are ether top jebs in the state sector to be filled, or reconfirmed as existing contracts run out in the coming moeths.

Wbat is clear is that both structural changes and the search for new men to take on the onerous state jebs will require some early indicatiens from the Government on how nationalized industry is ro operate after some years ef extensive Whiteball interventieo.

A statement on finencial ebjectives may emerge from the Treasury at some point, new subsidies are being phased eut with the return of eceneric pricing.

At tha same time, Sir Ronald McIntosh, the National Economic Develepment Office's director-general, is studyieg the relatienship of state boards te Whiteball.

Nene of the problems is e eew. eee. Indeed, the Select Committee on Natienalized Industries has examined many of them over some considerable time. Hewever, the mood of people on state boards has never been quite so militant.

The feeling is that the Government will attempt to defina a better relationship oece the present period of turmoil passes its peak and naw men are installed in the various boardrooms aloogside the experienced men who stay en.

IMI foundry envisaged for titanium

By Clifford Webb

Imperial Metal Industries, Europe's large producer ef titanium, has signed a deal with a German company which could lead to Britain getting its first commercial titanium foundry. Mest cast titanium cemponems for the aerospace, automotive and chemical industries are at present imported from America.

Titanium's progress from highly specialized, expensive applications to wider acceptance in more normal engineering techniqoes has been very slew. However the American market is now making rapid strides, and IMI believes the same will happen here.

Initially, IMI's New Metals division will sell titanium castings in Britain for Titan-Aluminium-Feinguss, GmbH (TITAL). Fermed in 1974, TITAL is jointly owned by W. C. Heraeus of Hanau, a leading producer of advanced metals and vacuum processing equipment, and Honsel-Werke of Meschede, near Düsseldorf, the largest German aluminium foundry.

Dr T. W. Farthing, managing director of IMI New Metals, said last night: "The United Kingdem market for titanium castings is still developing. A major aim ef the association between TITAL and IMI is the establishment of a United Kingdom manufacturing facility once the British market bas developed sufficiently

"Another important point is that this development is being undertaken en a European basis by two majer groups in the new metals industry."

Aerospace applications, particularly in Concorde, eccount for more than half the New Metal division's output.

Leyland market share threatened by strikes

By Clifford Webb

Strikes at Leyland car plents are burting tha company more than management bas admitted. Its dealers are again so short of cars that Leyland's market share is falling sharply, and it could be replaced as market leader by Ford.

Confideetial sales returns circulating in the industry show that the two are almost level with 27 per cent. This represents a 4 per cent fall for Leyland in less than a menth compared with a gain of over 2.5 per cent for Ford.

After a partial recovery in January and early February, Leyland's steck position is again deteriorating. Ford is in the middle of a peaceful prodnction cycle.

But it is the way Leyland dealers are reacting to the latest shortfall in stocks which is worrying management. Once again, they are resorting to bigbly selective trading. For instance, they are refusing sales to companies requesting block purchases at discount to sell at higher profits to individuals.

It is a perfectly respectabla method of trading in the ehort term but Leyland's new sales and marketiog team is worried that companies rejected in this way may oe permanently lost to competiters, ieclnding the better stocked importers.

This month's strikes have taken their toll of output, but this is by no means the whole explanation fer Leylaed's present plight.

Even at plants where work seems to be proceeding normally, cars are oeca again not getting into the factory-dealer pipeline in the expected numbers.

For instance, at Cewley engine tuners bave reimposed sanctions. For the past fortnight they have refused to work overtime to clear a backlog of Marina, Maxi and Princess models. Deliveries are also being delayed bv labour disputes affecting outside contractors.

A eew dispute at Triumph, Coventry, threatens to stop production today. Two days output was lost last week because of a strike by 2,400 "indirect" workers. Work was resumed on Friday, but within a few hours 500 toolroem men walked out in a dispute over pay differentials which bas exhausted the disputes procedure.

Tbe toolroom men will be picketing today, and if, as anticipated, production workers refuse to cross their lines, over 5,000 assembly workers could be idle within beurs.

A similar refusal to cross picket lines has already cost Leyland over £4m worth of Land Rover and Range Rover production at Selibull. However, several hundred workers crossed the picket lines on Friday, and management bave recalled 300 of the 1,400 men laid off m resuma work today.

Fed blocks Boston bank takeover

Washington, March 21.—By a five-to-two vote the Federal Reserve Beard has refused to let First National Bostoe Cerporatien acquire Blackstone Valley Natienal Bank, Nerthbridge, Massachusetts.

The Fed majerity said that First National Boston, the state's largest banking coecern, sbeuld "direct its financial and managerial resources" toward its four subsidiary banks, whicb have deposits totalling $3,400m (about £1,700m), rather than acquire Blacksteee Valley for $3.8m.

At the same time the majority emphasized that they considered First Natienal Boston seundly capitalized, aod thar it had a favourable earnings record.—AP-Dow Jones.

US Chrysler raising output

Chrysler Corporation said in Detroir at tha weekend that it was increasieg 1976 second quarter car and truck producion schedules by 22,700 nnits in response to increased demaed, especially for middle sized cars and light duty trucks.

Tbe company added it had cancelled plans to clese its Sc Louis plant for two weeks during the quarter.

£7.5m dam contract

Yorksbire Water Authority bas eccepted a £7.5m teeder frem Sir Alfred McAlpine and Sen (Nerthero) fer tbe raising ef Grimwith Dam and the enlargement of the reservoir, near Grassington.

Loan for Philippines

A consortium of 16 international banks led by the First Natienal Bank of Chicage has granted a loan of $75m (about £38m) to the Developmant Bank ef the Philippines, according in a consortium spokesmae in Manila.

Union merger accord

Leaders ef America's Amalgamated Clothieg Workers Unien and Textile Workers Unien have reached a tentative agreement to merge their organizatinns. It will be put m convenions of the twe unions in Washington in Jnne.

VW wage rise

Volkswagen employees in West Germany are to receiva wage increases averaging 5.4 per cent under an agreement reached at the weekend. About 93,000 workers are affected.

Peking helps Peru

China will lend Peru £20m for drilling water wells, it was announced in Lima.

Halewood talks

Talks will be resumed between management, union officials and shop stewards at Ford, Halewood, Liverpool, today in an effort to resolve the dispute on the night shift over lay-off pay which last week cost four shifts, losing 1,400 cars worth £1,750,000.

Gas fears raised by energy Bill

By Roger Vielvoye
Energy Correspondent

Government moves to end the automatic right of chemical companies to use any gas they may find during exploration in the North Sea as feedstock is causing concern in the petrochemical industry.

Under existing legislation chemical companies which are part of exploration groups have the right to use any gas they find as a feedstock for making chemicals.

But the new Energy Bill, which gets its second reading in the House of Lords today, would give the Secretary of State for Energy discriminatory powers to refuse permission for using the gas at chemical works.

Imperial Chemical Industries is a member of an exploration group that has found the Amethyst gasfield about 25 miles off the Lincolnshire coast. There are tentative plans to use the gas as a chemical feedstock if further drilling proves the reservoir is large enough.

The chemical companies and a number of the oil companies are also concerned at the power the Bill will give the Secretary of State for Energy to make orders controlling production, supply, acquisition and use of energy, and to regulata the price of products.

Executives in the two industries are concerned that the powers in the Bill could pave the way for more permanent controls over pricing in the oil and petrochemical industries.

The Government is thought to have included these provisions to give it the same fallback powers over the price of oil products as it has over the cost of fuel from the nationalized electricity, coal, and gas industries.

There is a feeling in Whitehall that reserve powers of this type are needed because of the important part oil plays in meeting energy demands.

Equal pay strike

Tweety-five women who do warehouse and machine work at the nuts and bolts factory of H. J. Barlow, Wednesbury, Staffs, have gone on strike because they claim aix men deing the same worl: get £3 a week more than they do. They intend rn stay out until the alleged discrimination is ended.

Heathrow in docks corridor, importers say

London Airport is within a five-mile corridor around Britain's coastline and major waterways in whicb all cargo handling rould be classified as deck work, ueder the Government's Dock Work Regulation Bill, it was claimed yesterday.

The plan showed the leegths ie which Mr Foet, the Employmeot Secretary, was prepared to ge "ro satisfy the dockers, against the interests of all other sections of the community", said Mr Walter Bircbam, chairmae ef the Britisb Imperters Confederation Transport Committee.

He was commenting on the Committee Stage of the Bill. "We want re make this Bill workable and to this end bave suggested numerous amendments, but the Government seem inrent on steam-rollering it through in its present form.

"Importers are responsible for 70 per cenr ef all cargo handled at Britain's ports which is wby we are so concerned."

Greece to invest $200m in alumina plant

Athens, March 21.—Bauxites Parnasse Mining Co has announced an agreement with the Greek Government under which it will invest $200m (about £104m) to establish an alumina plant on the Gulf of Corinth.

An official announcement said at least $140m would be imported from abroad in the form of equity capital and credits to buy equipment.

The plant will be heady within feur years with initial annual production capacity ef 600,000 tens of alumina, using Greek bauxite as its raw material.

Bauxites Parnasse, which owne bauxite reserves exceeding 580 millien tons, said it woeld hold 30 per cent of the $60m equity capital of the company to be fermed to operate the plam.

The state-controlled Hellenic Industrial Development Bank will bold a further 21 per cent, thus ensuring Greek majority.

Last October the managing director of Bauxitea Parnasse said the Natienal Steel Corporation and Southwire Corporation both of the United States, would hold the remaining 49 per cent.

The plant will be based on a feasibility report drawn np by Alrurey, the Hungarism state alnminnm Institute. It provides for extension of the plant m turn tha alumina into aluminium if the state-controlled public power corporation can provide cheap enough electricity.—Reuter.

BP's Alaskan pipeline almost half completed

By Our Industrial Correspondent

Construction of the trans-Alaska pipeline project is oow 45 per cent complete, and work on the ventura is expected in reach a peak this summer. Total workforca on the project is 16,000 and 2,000 workers have recently been added.

British Petroleum, for wbom the Alaskan pipeline project represents one of its costliest and largest civil engineering ventures, said yesterday that so far 372 miles of mainline pipe have been laid, over 400 miles have been welded and 227 miles of ditch excavated. Werk ie also well under way, BP eald, on the constructien ef the tanker terminal at Valdez and the pumping statinns.

BP reported that installation of the main pipeline began earlier this month after baving been closed fer more than two months because of weather conditions. The pipeline system is scheduled to be completed next year.

Throughput of oil will be built up during next year to reach the initial design capacity of 1.2 million barrels a day by the end of nexr year. Under tha terms of the merger agreement with Sohio, BP's interest will increase in accordance with the development of the pipeline throughput.

National Savings gain £55m

The steady improvemeet in national savings was maintained in February, according to provisieoal figures published by the Natieeal Savings Committee. Net inflow of new savings fer the four weeks ending oe 28 February was £55m, slightly higher than fer the five-week acceuntig peried ef January.

Net accrued interest during February was £29.8m, brieging the increase in the total remaining invested in all forms ef natienal savings in £84.6m. These are the best February figures since 1972, the committee reports.

Seles of the index-linked retirement issne of National Savings Certificates bave reached £240.1m in the nine months since their introduction. Menthly cenrributions to index-linked Save-As-Yeu-Earn now total £4m, and over 300,000 contracts bave been accepted.

West Midlands plight to be impressed on Mr Varley

By Our Midland Industrial Correspondent

A large and representative deputatien is meeting Mr Varley, Secretary of State for Industry, today to discuss the worsening industrial situatien in the West Midlands.

Among those taking part are Birmingham city ceuncil, Ceventry city council, the West Midlands county council, the West Midlands economic planning council, Birmingham chamber of iedustry and cemmerce, the regienal CBI, and the West Midlands planning authority's conference.

The deputatien will he led by Mr Quinton Hazell, chairman of the economic planning council.

Unemployment in the region is new higher in both percentage and rotal rerms than in some of the government-assisted areas. In Birmingham one in 10 of the male populaftion is unemployed.

The deputatien will urge Mr Varley to drop the negativa restrictions on industrial development in the region which bave prevented local industry frem growing on its cbosen base and diverted new industries from coming in te counter the overdependence on metal manipulation.

Members will not, hewever, ask for assisted area status, a move urged by soma union leaders.

They will press fer chaoges in the Government's accelerated investmeet programme. West Midland firms bave complained tbat the £500,000 minimum requirement fer schemes to qualify fer government belp is too high.

The backbone of West Midland industry is the large number of small, family-owned companies. Cellectively they play a hig role in providing jobs but individually they are mo small to contemplate investment projects of £500,000.

The deputation will also point ont that in their view the September deadline for qualification ia too optimistic and should he extended inm 1977.

Small progress at Unctad talks on commodities pact

From Alan McGregor
Geneva, March 21

Anether modest step on the loog road to price and supply stabilization of commodities was taken at rhe 68-nation board of the United Nations Trade and Developmem Conference (Unctad), which ended a ten-week meeting here today.

A measure of the extent of neilical commitment—or at least involvament—now being displayed, was the fact that the final plenery scheduled originally for Friday morning did not begin until late last night.

Negetiations in the meantime had been directed to producing a statement of agreed conclusions, as between developing and western indnstrialized countries, on the proposed integrated Unctad programme for 17 main commodities.

While this attempt failed there was in the words of the chairman, Mr K. K. S. Dadzie (Ghana) "increased recognition of the fundamental aim of supporting prices of commodities ef export interest to developing countries at levels remunerative to producers and equitable to consumers".

In their position statement western countries came round at last to mentioning the need for an "integrated approach" commodity by commodity

It did not even refer to the proposed common fund for financing buffer stocks—keystone of the entire plan. This reticence forced The Netherlands to step out of line with the resc of the EEC and say firmly ir would contribute to the fund "if and when it was duly negotiated and accepted". Norway followed with a similar statement.

The Philippines had said at last month's Manila meeting of tbe developing countries' group of 77—now wirb 110 members—that it was willing to alocate $50m (about £26m) for the fund.

On behalf of the 77, Mr N. H. J. Brillantes (Philippines), voiced disappointment at the outcome of the session, specifically at the lack of cleaner cut proposals from the industrialized nations.

American R & D lead narrows

From Michael Binyon
Washington, March 21

Although the United States still leads the world in virtually all fields of eciences and technology, its lead is narrowing as a result of inflation and declining federal support for research and development, as well as a sharp fall in recent years in industry's share of support for basic research.

These are some of the principal findings reported in *Science Indicators 1974*, a comprehensive statistical portrait of American science published by the National Science Foundation.

Tha publication says the proportion of the gross national product spent for research and development has declined steadily ever the past decade ie the United States while growing substantially in Russia, West Germany and Japan.

In 1973 the fraction for America was 2.4 per cent of the GNP, compared with 3.1 for Russia, 2.4 for West Germany and 1.9 for Japan. (Russia's figures however have to ba treated with caution as comparable statistics are not available, the report says.)

Inflation has cut deeply into the spending. Expenditure for research and development in the United States reached $32,000m in 1974, theugh measured in constant 1967 dollars it has remained at about the same level as in 1968, at $22,000m.

Expenditure for basic research, measured in 1967 dollars, was the same in 1974 as it was in 1965, and almost 13 per cent lower than the peak year of 1968.

Similarly the number of scientists and engineers engaged in research and development per 10,000 population declined in America after 1969, though continuing to grow alsewhere. In 1973 this number was 25 per 10,000 in the United States, 18 for West Germany, 19 for Japan and an estimated 37 for Russia.

But America is still the largest producer of scientific literature in all fields, excepr chemistry and mathematics where Russia does better. American research is cited more than that of other major research performing countries; and America had an increasingly positive balance of payments from the sale of technical know-hew (patents, licences and manufacturing rights) over the 1960-73 period, with about five times more technical know-bow sold to other countries than bought from them.

On the "patent balance" the United States had an overall favourable position between 1966 and 1973, but there was a decline of 30 per cent as a result of an increasing number of United States patents awarded to American citizens.

Indicators concludes this suggests "that the number of patentable ideas of international merit has been growing at a greater rate in other countries than in the United States".

Turning to indostrial research, the report said American industry spent $22,000m on research and development in 1974, though expressed in 1967 constant dollars the figure was only $15,200m—11 per cent lower than in the peak year of 1968. Six industries accounted for 70 per cent of this expenditure: communications equipment and electronic components, aircraft and parts, guided missiles and spacecraft machinery, motor vehicles and transport equipment, and chemicals.

OECD paves way for curb on Japan ship 'dumping'

By Peter Hill
March 21

New initiatives, directed at Japan and designed to restore some order in the world shipbuilding industry, are to be launched by the Organization of Economic Cooperatien and Development.

The form of the new initiative remained confidential at tbe weekend, but industry leaders are confident that it will be designed to bring the Japanese to the negotiating table later this month willing to involve themselves more meaningfully in the OECD's deliberations than they have done in the past.

World shipbuilding is faced with a criss. There is great overcapacity due to cancellations of tanker orders—which has hit Japanese yards particularly badly—and new orders have proved hard to come by at a time when the shipping industry is faced with a serious recession in world trade.

But the Japanese and the South Koreans beve been more successful than most European yards in attracting the few orders that are being placed. European builders accuse tha Japanese of "dumping". Price quotations, particularly from the medinm and smaller-sized Japanese yards, have been roore than 35 per cent noder those quoted by European yards for the same class of ahip.

The new orders are vital to Japan and other Far Eastern shipbuilders. There is an acute need for capecity or output to be reduced oo a big scale—by over 50 per cent on some iedependent estimates—and Britisb shiphuilders have argued that those who bave expanded most should contract accordingly.

The EEC Commission bas intervened through diplomatic channels to impress on the Japanese the action it could take m combat unfair competition.

Tokyo: The 31st planned shipbuilding programme to ha fixed thia week, is expected in fall below the million-ton level because of the slump on the freight market.—Agence France Presse.

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Lending rate 9 pc

The Bank of England's minimum lending rate is being held unchanged at 9 per cent this waek. The following are the results of Friday'a Treasury bill tender:

Applications £905.1m Allotted £100m
Bids at £97.88 [illegible]% Received 3%
Prev week £97.88 [illegible]% Received 93%
Aver rate £8.4624% Prev week £8.4821%
Next Friday £550m Replace £500m

Management

Edited by Rodney Cowton

How TI profited from the Plowden touch

There have been four chairmeo of Tube Investmeots since the group was fouoded io 1919; Arthur Cbamberlaio, of the great political and industrial family from Birmiogham; Joho Aston, Cbamberlain's maoaging director wbo finally held the chairmanship for a short period during the last war; Sir Ivan Stedeford, who quite literally reigned over TI for 19 years, and Lord Plowdeo.

Tubes' fifth chairman, Brian Kellett, deputy cbairman aod managing director since 1974, takes over in May wheo Lord Plowden retires at 69 to hecome presideot just as Sir Ivan did in 1963. It is an uncontroversial way of doing things, but then Tubes is an oocontroversial company—and under Lord Plowden meant to be.

So while TI can claim to he the second largest engineering company in the country, with annual sales of well over £600m and a atock market worth of £160m there was never any question that someooe aboold be brought in to succeed Lord Plowden as chairman.

Mr Kellett, a mathemarician, aged 53, has been with the company since 1955 and close to or at the centre for most of that time. Internally, at least, he has heen recognized as the natural successor to Lord Plowden for several years, certainly long before Lord Plowdeo gave up as chief executive in his favour two years ago.

And at Tubes, the chief executive also chairs the powerful executive committee, a four-strong group which runs the cumpany. Lord Plowden set up this committee shortly after he became chairman and by doing so introduced centralized control of policy and thus a type of management which in many ways was quite contrary to that of Sir Ivan's.

Sir Ivan was a remarkable man. Seen as a "religious and high-mioded tycoon" who combined "ruthlessness io business with personal compassion", he was responsible with great entrepreneurial flair for turning TI ioto ao engineering group of intermatioonal rankiug.

But for him Tubes may well have remaioed as a smallish West Midland tubemaker. Nevertbeless, wheo Lord Plowden took the chair in 1963 Sir Ivan's bequest looked very much like an uowieldly overfed giaot not quite sure which way to turo next.

Sir Ivan, famous as a man capable of takiog the big decision, had capped his distinguished 19-year chairmanship by taking some of the biggest decisions of his career. Haviog rationalized the cycle manufacturing business in Britain by merging Raleigh aod TI's Britisb Cycle Corporation, he set about a massive investment programme in new steelmaking capacity aod he fought the "aluminium war".

In the City the fight for British Alominium is still regarded as a classic. Sir Ivan strongly motivated by patriotism launched TI alongside the American Reynolds Metal Corp in a counter bid for BA whose board wanted to sell out to the Alumioium Corporation of America.

In the face of hostile establishment opinion in the winter of 1958/59 Sir Ivan woo—only then did people stop to wonder what steelmaking and tubes bad to do with aluminium. "You have to remember", says Lord Plowden, "that in business Ivan Stedeford was in a sensa a loner. He ran the business, and was the kiod of man who knew what he wanted to do".

Lord Plowden arrived at TI in 1960 at the invitation of Sir Ivan. He recalls that "it would have been extremely conceited of me at that time to think that the business was going in any particular direction or that there were necessarily any fundamental problems which in fact there were not, although for some people it was difficult to see the precise rationale of acquisitions like BA or, indeed, of the massive capital investment which had taken place in steelmakiog capacity at Park Gate particularly".

So wben Lord Plowdeo became chairmao io 1963 TI paused for breath; the company and some of the people io it were showiog signs of exhaustioo after "a period of tremendous expaosioo". At that time aonual sales were £179m, and falling—and so, of course, were profits.

Lord Plowden saw his task as ensuring that TI's management tecbniques were right. The executive committee epitomized the tight managemeot cootrol over policy with the maximum devolutioo of day-to-day maoagement to the divisions which he sought, and the measure of success was quite simply to he the return oo capital which by 1963 had fallen to 7.2 per cent, almost half that achieved two years earlier.

But there was a windfall. Steel nafonalizarion in 1967 brought TI just over £53m compensation for its Park Gate husioess and 50 per ceot of Round Oak (it was able to negotiate joint ownership of this plant with the BSC as a way of securing specialized tubemaking steel supplies).

Reinvestment of the compensation changed the face of the group from ooe almost wholly dependent on heavy engineering to a business that now earns just under half its profits from consumer goods and which has also taken a strategic stake in the machine tool industry.

"For technical reasons", says Lord Plowdeo, "the steel nationalizatioo money could not he repaid to sharebolders. We therefore had to do something constructive with it and the decision was taken to move nearer to the customer."

This was mostly achieved by acquisition—including the £21m purchase of Radiation—but also by disposal of unwanted heavy businesses like Loewy Robertson. The danger perbaps was that TI believed that its maoagemeot would almost automatically take the correct course. Certainly, with hindsight one can see that it was capable of making good decisions — the aggressive acquisitive push into consumer durables and the huge modernization of tubemaking facilities in the mid-1960s are examples. But there were problems with the diversification into machioe tools.

"We decided to buy into machine tools perhaps arrogantly", Lord Plowden oow says, "because we believed that our own management staodards could be applied. As it happened, we had to learn the hard way. The managements of the companies we bought felt that a machine tool company's products should cover the whole waterfront. It took us time to realize that to succeed you needed to be a specialist. So for those who expected instant profits we offered disappointment. In the short term we might as well have bought a caravan site."

An underestimation of problems like these delayed TI's growth ambifions and in the extraordinary late 1960s and early 1970s, when nothing was beyond predators like Slater, TI was talked about as a takeover target, gossip which Tubes took seriously enough.

Since 1970 profits have beeo more than douhled to over £40m and return on capital employed has heeo pushed up from aroond 12 per cent to nearly 18 per cent. Major investment decisions, which include the British Aluminium Invergordon project and modernization of tubemaking facilities, were completed before the 1974-75 inflation and are now starting to yield respectable returns.

The machine tool business, part of an industry which has had its fair share of dramatic crises during the past five years, returned 8 per cent on assets in 1974; and by most standards, given the cyclical nature of the hosiness, the domestic appliance husiness is efficient and comprehensive and has just added washing machine manufacture to its range.

Moreover, overseas sales have moved up from 25 per cent to 45 per cent of the TI total. Lord Plowden, meanwhile, is considering an iovitation to become the first chairman of the proposed equity bank—"if it is decided that there is a need for it and it goes ahead"—and at the same time spending time defeoding the virtues of British managemeot against what he coosiders to he unwarranted and uosubstantiated attack.

"Could incompetent management", he asked recently, "have achieved in 1971 exports of 23 per cent of gross domestic product for the United Kingdom compared with 22 per cent for Germany and 12 per cent for Japan. That was a year when the ecoomy was not overloaded and management could demonstrate their efficiency unimpeded by incompetent management of the economy."

His annual statement this year is likely to pursue the cause—sweet words for Britain's maligned managers from someone who has seen industry from the standpoint of the civil servant and from the inside as chairman for 13 years of a major industrial company. His conclusion is that industrial management emerges favourably in any comparative exercise.

Andrew Goodrick-Clarke
Financial Editor

Need for a serious approach to research in accountancy

A forthrigot critiqnc of the "couservrative and staid" approach to research in accountaocy in Britain was puhlished last week by the Social Science Research Council.

The study*, which is hy Mr R. I. Tricker of the Oxford Centre for Managemeot Studies, briefly summarizes research orojects heing carried out in Britain, and comoients: "The general impression left after reviewing the scope and methodologies of the projects, is of mainly desk and library work, using questionnaires and a limited programme of interviews to establish curreot practice, with a view to commenting and, perhaps, making recommendations.

Io some cases the amount of empirical exploration was no greater than a journalist might use forf a descriptive piece.

"The emphasis oo surveyiog opinion and practice, and reassessing the literature would seem to close the optioos to either (a) the formulation or hypotheses, to he tested empirically aod coofirmed or refuted, or (b) to creating oew imagioative insights."

Mr Tricker observes that "there really has been no serious accountaocy research tradition io Britain". He then goes oo to discuss weaknesses in the present position under the following headings: lack of time; lack of research experieoce and knowledge; lack of fuods; pressure to cooform to establisbed disciplines; and lack of motivation.

"Witbin the accouotaocy profession there is a penchant for what is practical, with an implicit distrust of the theoretical. Anti-intellectualism in British professions is oeither new nor surprisiog, given the educational and social conditioos. But the dichotomy is false."

Mr Tricker discusses economic and social changes which impinge on accountancy and call for new approaches, including ioflation, the increased importance of monitoring liquidity, government involvemeot, shifts in the balance of managerial decision-taking power, and membership of the EEC. He goes on to outline a strategy for developing research io accountaocy.

This strategy would involve encouraging research across the whole spectrum from "blue sky exploratioos" to the search for clear solutioos to severely practical problems. He lays stress oo the need for cootact between those concerned with practice and tbe theoreticians, and on the value of creating networks of people interested io accoontaocy research.

Finally Mr Tricker emphasizes the need for providing resources for training the accoontancy researcher, and having trained him theo retaining him io the field at a time when he has become a highly marketable commodity.

R.C.

**Research in Accountancy—a strategy for further Work*; £1.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Importance of solar and hydrogen energy

From Professor J. O'M. Bockris

Sir, The lower the price of energy, the higher the living standards. This is obvious in transportation; but there is about 25 per cent "energy content" of most goods. The variatioo of the price of energy depends upon the degree to which the resource is available.

The availability of oil and natural gas is decreasing and benca the price is increasing (and the standard of life decreasing). The time at which availability starts to decrease dramatically will be between 1990 and 2000.

Development of coal supplies may help to compeosate the exhaustion of oil, but, with only aome 25 years to go, it will not be possible to open sufficient new mines to be ready in time for coal to take over from oil and natural gas. There is a lack of consciousness of the great lengths of time needed to do research and development io the new energy sources. Later, actual *building* of a new energy system to replace that based on the fossil fuels will take 10-20 years (one atomic reactor takes 10 years to build).

There has been a widespread change of view in the scientific community on the availability of breeder reactors for a smooth changeover from oil to atomic energy around the end of the century. The breeder reactor (an atomic device which could take us through several centuries) will not be ready at that time, and, when it is ready, it seems likely that it will be associated with unacceptable pollutional dangers.

In view of the long time (two decades) historically indicated for commercializing a device from the research laboratory, the energy prospect obtaining is disastrous. If no other large-scale energy source has been commercialized *and built* throughout the Western world by 2000, living standards will turn down. In Communist countries oil will not exhaust for three or four decades after our own exhaustion. The geo-political implications are alarming.

The main source to which we may turn to remedy this development is solar energy, coupled with water splitting to make hydrogen gas which is transportable over long distances and which would be used as a fuel, like natural gas. The solar-hydrogen alternative represents the possibility of maintaining (and eventually increasing) living standards in the Western world, and particularly in the non-affluent world (for the building of solar-hydrogen devices does not need sophisticated engineering). Moreover, such energy production would then operate with zero pollution (after the equipment for extracting the solar energy has been built).

Hitherto, the machinery for developing solar energy has been thought to be too expensive. There are several relatively new approaches to the extraction of solar energy. Estimates of the price of the resulting hydrogen fuel indicate that it would not be more expensive than gasoline at this time.

It is time for a reappraisal of the new energy source programmes in the various countries. Although continued work on breeder reactors, and the extraction of energy from coal should occur, the major stress should no longer be on these sources as it is in all countries which do a significant amount of energy research, but upon the development of the solar sources, coupled with water splitting to give hydrogen fuel. Such approaches should give abundant clean and inexhaustible energy at an acceptable price. Because they involve simpler engineering than do the atomic devices, they have a much greater chance of being ready for massive building in time.

J. O'M. BOCKRIS,
Professor of Chemistry,
The Flinders University of South Australia.

Telling children the facts

From Miss Jane Collier

Sir, I warmly support Vice-Admiral Clutterbuck's argument (Business News letters, March 15). As an economist who teaches both in and out of the university it has always seemed incredible to me that the majority of our young people have no conception of the mechanics of wealth creation in society, in spite of the fact that many of them propose to use the skills, which they acquire in our institutions of learning, in some capacity within the industrial environment. Perhaps it is uot to be wondered at that as employment in the public sector becomes more remunerative these same young people choose not to become involved in an activity which has never heeo presented to them as a relevant or a desirable one. After all, our educational philosophy teaches the value of caring and service; profits are by implication the fruits of exploitation, of taking rather than giving. How many people are actually aware of the true role which profits play in an industrial society? How many of them appreciate the extent to which their own personal well-beiog hinges on the existence of an adequate rate of profitability?

Such ignorance is unnecessary. The realities of economics—as opposed to the somewhat arid textbook versions of the discipline—lend themselves to preseotation at every level, whether it be to postgraduate managers or to primary schoolchildren. Why sbould we neglect to show children how their world works in this respect, when we conscientiously teach them about the biological, chemical, physical and historical dimensions to their existence? If we have neglected this topic in the pact, believing it to be irrelevant to the individual participant in the productive process, let us think again. School children become coosumers, shop stewards, strikers. They become ignorant voters, alienated workers, disgruntled taxpayers. One only has to discuss the problems of the economy with such groups to realize the appalling results of this particular gap in our educational system.

Can we not decide to include this topic in school curricula for all ages and at all levels? I for one would positively enjoy writing a textbook to be entitled "Economics for primary schools"!

Yours sincerely,
JANE COLLIER,
Director of Studies in Economics,
Lucy Cavendish College,
Cambridge CB3 0BU.
March 15.

Engineers

From Mr J. A. Fletcher

Sir, When the chairman of the Council of Engineering Institutions urges (March 15), oo their behalf, measures to save the cooscience and independence of professional engineers; all engineers, including those not embraced by their definition "professional", might wish to rally to the cause.

Unfortunately, the rank and file of technician engineers who form about three quarters of the profession are uncertain about the strategy, quite apart from the tactics, surrounding codes of conduct and representation by particular unions.

We recall the Parsons case where a boardroom of chartered engineers apparently agreed that another chartered engineer should not be allowed to refuse to join a union with, presumably, non-professional interests. We have noted that one CEI recommended union only accepts "professionals" and another accepts the others.

The integrity of professional engineers, all engineers for that matter, is important but the majority will be able to respond with more conviction to the recommendations of "our" chairman, Tony Dummett, when we are made to feel we are more professionally integrated.

J. A. FLETCHER,
Secretary,
The Institute of Road Transport Engineers,
1 Cromwell Place, London SW7

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COMPANY MEETING NOTICES

THE SCOTTISH LIFE ASSURANCE COMPANY

Notice is hereby given that the Ninety-Third Annual General Meeting of the Company will be held within the Head Office, 19 St Andrew Square, Edinburgh, on Tuesday, 13th April, 1976, at 3.15 p.m.

A member entitled to attend and vote at the meeting may appoint a proxy to attend and vote in his stead. The proxy need not be a member of the Company.

W. M. MORRISON,
General Manager.

A copy of the Annual Report and Accounts will be sent to any policyholder on request or may be obtained from any office of the Company.

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H. J. HEINZ COMPANY Limited

Notice is hereby given that the TRANSFER BOOKS of the above Cumulative Preference Redeemable Shares of this Company will be CLOSED from 1 to 28 April, 1976, both dates inclusive.

J. A. ROSS,
Company Secretary.
Hayes Park, Hayes, Middlesex.
16 March, 1976.

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HAMBROS BANK Limited.
19th March 1976.

PUBLIC NOTICES

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The James Tait Black Memorial Book Prize, which is awarded annually for the best novel or work of fiat nature published during the previous year, has been awarded for the year 1975 to Brian Moore for his book The Great Victorian Collection, on the recommendation of Professor A. D. S. Fowler, Regius Professor of Rhetoric and English Literature in the University of Edinburgh.

The same Prize for the best biography or work of that nature published in 1975 has been awarded by the Professor to Karl Miller for his book Cockburn's Millennium.

Secretarial and Non-secretarial Appointments also on pages 26 and 27

SECRETARIAL

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MOTHER'S HELP / Nanny wanted for boy of 3 and baby girl in Knightsbridge. 235 0924.

NANNIES, temporary and permanent jobs everywhere. Nannies Kensington, 27 Stratford Rd., W.8. 937 [illegible]

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BY THE FINANCIAL EDITOR

Diluting the force of qualified accounts

After London & County it is reasonable to assume that auditors with any doubts about the accounts they are assessing will be rather more reluctant to sign them unqualified than they may have been hitherto. The pressure, evidently, is on them to be tougher, and investors can only applaud any gestures in the direction of a more critical approach to the figures put up by directors for audit. But even before London & County there were signs of auditors taking a harder line. A survey of 300 of Britain's leading industrial companies carried out by the Institute of Chartered Accountants showed the number of auditors' qualifications rising from 10 in 1973/74 to 27 in 1974/75.

As the following wide-ranging list shows, a remarkable number of blue chips were caught in the net: Associated Biscuits, J. Bibby, Burmah Oil, Burton Group, Barclays Bank, Cons Tin Smelters, Richard Costain, Drake & Cubitt, J. B. Eastwood, French Kier, Henly's, Hunting Gibson, ICI, London & Northern Securities, Reyrolle Parsons, Oliver Rix, Spillers, Stone-Platt, Swan Hunter, Taylor Woodrow, Turner & Newall, Walmsley (Bury), Whessoe, George Wimpey.

Reassuring though this may be for those with doubts about the courage of the average auditor, however, it raises problems of its own. For many of the qualifications relate only to technicalities and by no stretch of the imagination could these be construed as giving cause for concern about the fundamental stability of the accounts.

In ICI's case, for example, the auditors' reservation was about the company's treatment of government grants which was at variance with the current standard accounting practice. There is no sign that notes of this sort in auditors' reports worry companies at all, and the obvious danger is that the proliferation of such qualifications can reduce the impact when it is needed for more vital occasions.

The accountants themselves are not unaware of the problem. The survey points out that there is no clear definition between comments on accounting policies and comments which should be taken as more serious qualifications. Arguably, accounts which are described as giving "a true and fair view except that . . ." are much more seriously qualified than those which, after a note, are described as "true and fair on this basis . . .", but such nuances may be too fine for the average investor.

What counts, clearly, is not so much whether there is a qualification as how serious that qualification really is. If the profession is to avoid blunting its key weapon by excessive use on minor issues, it should, perhaps, be looking closely at how it can be made absolutely plain, in the presentation of auditors' reports, when qualifications are of real concern and when they are not.

Mr Ladislas Rice, joint chairman and managing director of Burton Group: problem of valuing inlet developments.

Burton Group

Tidying up in property

Altruism does not look to have been uppermost in Burton's mind over its proposal last week to buy out the 13 per cent of Montague Burton Property Investments (MBPI) not already under its control, even though minority shareholders had been effectively locked into a frustrating situation for some while.

The point is that, having failed in its original goal to secure a realistic stockmarket for Burton's property interests (and equally important at the time their development potential), MBPI is now more valuable to the parent as a wholly-owned subsidiary, where the full value of the properties can be used as collateral for bank borrowings, than as a separately quoted public company.

Floated off by way of a rights issue to Burton holders over three years ago at the height of the property boom, MBPI's failure to live up to expectations cannot be laid entirely at its own door. But however much its problems were tied up with the collapse of the property market, MBPI never did shape up in line with the original intentions.

Apart from a short burst of activity a year after being formed, involving the purchase of the privately-owned Second Union Property group, MBPI has not expanded its portfolio to reduce dependence on rental income from Burton group properties. It never made use of its borrowing powers—upwards of £20m when the company was set up—to develop as a property concern in its own right and indeed until last year was rather incongruously propped up by a £2m loan from its parent.

Nevertheless that has probably been a blessing in disguise given the way the reversal in property values has dragged under stronger managements.

Conveniently, the latest property valuation throws up a net worth of £30m, or 75p a share, bang in line with the rights issue price three years ago. However, that does show a disconcerting drop from last August's £38m though, according to Burton, that reflects more the problem of valuing developments completed and not as yet let rather than any serious decline in property values.

Consolidating MBPI at last year's net worth will strengthen Burton's balance sheet but against that must be set the £3.9m added to existing heavy overdrafts to finance the purchase. More important from the longer term viewpoint is that this latest move signifies the end of Burton's grandiose property notions; future projects will be undertaken only when justified on retailing grounds. Burton shareholders must hope that a similar air of realism is extended throughout the organization.

European Ferries

The spectre at the feast

European Ferries has successfully negotiated the initial hurdles in its bid to take over Felixstowe Dock and Railway. And although the state, in the guise of the British Transport Docks Board, remains as a spectre at the ferry group's feast, the strength of this particular spectre remains to be proved.

Felixstowe's shareholders, or at least the 82 per cent who have so far accepted European Ferries' offer, have, of course, come out of the deal well. Instead of the 150p a share cash offered by the Docks Board and accepted reluctantly by Felixstowe shareholders last November, they have shares worth 157½p, with European Ferries' shares at 63p, and the hope of an additional 15p a share cash if the Docks Board's enabling Bill, currently before Parliament, is killed or is delayed until the Docks Board's bid lapses on November 15.

The position for European Ferries itself, though, could be slightly less clear-cut. If the Docks Board's Bill is passed in time, European Ferries will receive the 150p a share cash offered to Felixstowe's original shareholders. The ferry group will, in effect have had two rights issues in as many years. It raised £5.9m in 1975 with a one-for-two rights issue pitched at a 39.5p discount to the then market price.

If its Felixstowe shares are bought by the Docks Board, European Ferries will, moreover, have eliminated any residual doubts about liquidity pressure left after 1975's rights. In fact, the group feels that its cash flow will be strong enough to cope with the £23m of borrowings due for repayment in the next three years, particularly since there is still around £50m of unused depreciation of its fleet to keep the tax charge minimal through to the end of the decade. And forecasts of at least £6m pre-tax this year should eventually compensate shareholders for the fall in the price of their shares from 80p immediately before news of the bid.

But if European Ferries does end up running Felixstowe, the calculations become more conjectural. Felixstowe turned in pre-tax profits of £724,000 in 1974-75, and after stripping out attributable profits from Felixstowe Tank Developments, sold late last year, the port seems to be heading for around £6/700,000 pre-tax this year.

A pro-forma statement of the combined European Ferries-Felixstowe group shows a rise in net assets for the ferry group's shareholders from £28.1m to £40.2m. Because of European Ferries weight of shipbuilding loans and Felixstowe's lowly gearing, the equity to debt ratio of a combined group would be improved. And although £514,000 would have to be found to pay the additional 15p a share to Felixstowe's shareholders, European Ferries clearly has the financial muscle to carry through the continuing development of the port, one of the key problems which forced Felixstowe's existing management into the arms of the Docks Board in the first place.

European Ferries already operates the Larne harbour in Northern Ireland, where tonnage throughput has risen from 3.3m to 5.8m tons in the past three years. And so it has the experience to run Felixstowe, where it is already one of the major port users.

One question does, however, remain unanswered and, indeed, unanswerable. Felixstowe has an excellent record of labour relations, unique amongst Britain's ports. But the recent introduction of the Dock Labour Scheme, cited by Felixstowe's directors as a serious threat to the port's profitability and another reason for handing over to the Docks Board, casts a long shadow over the port's future success.

The scheme may prove irrelevant to Felixstowe's continued growth, and the Government may, if the present Docks Board Bill fails, abandon any future attempt to bring it within the state net. If not, on either count, European Ferries may find that it has bought trouble.

Unresolved questions about the German mark

It was on Wednesday of last week that the latest bout of turmoil on international currency markets evolved into a general run into the German mark. On that day the weakness that on Monday and Tuesday had kept the Belgian franc and Danish crown pinned at their lower intervention points against the mark in the European currency "snake" broadened to affect other currencies.

Within the snake the Dutch gilder began to fall against the mark to touch its floor briefly on Thursday. Currencies like the dollar, sterling and the Italian lire, against which the German currency floats more or less freely, also joined the slide.

The question that remains unanswered is whether the mark can now still be regarded as a currency that is fundamentally strong in the medium and longer term.

Will the world's currencies now dance to the tune of "Deutschemark, Deutschmark über Alles" as they did in the years after the floating of the mark in May, 1971, or can the upheaval of last week be considered as just one of those "erratic" currency movements in the sense of Rambouillet?

The mark's strength over the past week or so struck many a familiar chord. The word "revaluation" was bandied about freely, although since the departure of the French franc from the snake last weekend the mark could be revalued only against the Benelux currencies, and the Danish, Swedish and Norwegian crowns.

The sense of re-living the past was heightened by the heavy intervention of central banks within the snake and the flow of denials that changes were being planned from the governments and central banks of countries participating in the joint float.

There are good arguments to support the case that the mark is still a currency that is more likely to move up than down against the currencies of Germany's trading partners. Perhaps the most persuasive is West Germany's success in coping with inflation. The country's cost of living is expected to rise by only 4.5 per cent in annual terms in the second half of this year.

The outlook for wage costs per unit of production, which can have a key effect on export prices, is even more promising. These will probably rise by only 2 per cent this year against 10 per cent in many other industrialized countries.

Although West German wage costs are among the highest in the world, this promise of export price stability is probably having an effect in exerting upwards pressure on the mark exchange rate. That it should do so is borne out by past experience.

The federal bank recently released figures which showed that the prices for West Germany's export goods stayed very largely in line with those of its international competitors in the period between 1972 and 1975, despite a strong net revaluation of the mark relative to other currencies in this period.

Thus, by the third quarter of last year, Germany's export prices were 49 per cent higher than the average for 1972, while those of Britain, where a substantial depreciation of sterling had been offset by much higher domestic inflation, were 47 per cent higher.

In the same period, France's export prices had risen by 56 per cent and those of the United States, by 64 per cent. Belgium, like Britain, could show a rate of increase slightly below that of West Germany with an overall export price increase of 44 per cent.

To the favourable price development one must add that Germany is now apparently moving into a period of clear economic recovery. When the United States entered a similar phase last autumn this was cited as one of the reasons for the then strength of the dollar.

But these arguments cannot be totally convincing. Otherwise it would be reasonable to assume that West Germany would have bowed early to market pressure and swiftly revalued its currency in accordance with the Rambouillet undertakings.

1975 CONSUMER PRICES IN EUROPE

(Percentage increase over 1974)

Germany	6.0
Switzerland	6.7
Austria	8.5
Denmark	9.6
Sweden	9.7
Netherlands	10.2
France	11.7
Norway	11.7
Belgium	12.7
Italy	17.0
UK	24.3

(Source: OECD)

WHO SELLS TO WHOM

The table shows the percentage of a given country's exports going to some of its principal neighbours. Germany's preeminence is obvious.

Importing countries / Exporting countries	Austria	Belgium	Denmark	Netherlands	Germany	Norway	Sweden	Switzerland	France
Austria	—	1.34	1.98	2.97	19.65	1.19	3.94	9.98	2.24
Belgium	0.70	—	1.12	17.80	21.48	0.77	2.02	2.07	19.80
Denmark	0.99	2.05	—	2.81	13.29	6.56	15.00	1.66	3.18
Netherlands	0.94	13.02	1.73	—	30.46	0.95	2.35	1.68	9.98
Germany	4.41	7.63	2.01	10.18	—	1.29	3.42	4.99	11.89
Norway	0.73	1.93	8.12	3.75	10.46	—	17.52	1.08	3.38
Sweden	1.39	3.23	8.44	4.41	9.81	10.4	—	2.25	5.23
Switzerland	5.54	2.38	1.52	2.87	14.77	1.34	3.28	—	8.88
France	0.74	10.2	0.70	5.24	18.53	0.75	1.41	4.75	—

(Source: OECD)

The standard argument against an early revaluation was that it would damage the chances of the present coalition government of Chancellor Helmut Schmidt in the general elections of October this year. Behind this has been the more substantial economic fear that Germany's export recovery is by no means assured.

West Germany's exports fell last year by 10 per cent in real terms and this was the main factor behind the 3.6 per cent real fall in the country's gross national product in 1975. Although exports gathered pace strongly in the second half of last year, by the final quarter of 1975 they still lagged by about 4.5 per cent in volume terms behind the admittedly excellent results of the past three months of 1974.

It is impossible to quantify how far exports were hit last year by the rise in the value of the mark since 1971, but decline was proof enough that Germany's export industry was not immune to the worldwide recession. Now, with the world economy apparently moving back onto a growth track, the government, the federal bank and industry have been understandably reluctant to witness an upward movement of the mark that could damage the chances of recovery in the country's export industry.

But one of the more remarkable features of the latest currency unrest is that Germany's partners in the snake seem to have been just as reluctant as Bonn or Frankfurt to allow the mark to appreciate.

It would be wrong to interpret France's ill-fated attempt to stay in the snake as being merely some manifestation of ill-placed Gaullist pride. Similarly there must be some good economic reasons for M Jean Pierre Fourcade, the French finance minister, to have declared subsequently that his aim was to keep the franc as close to the snake as possible.

One possible reason is the great importance that the snake, and particularly Germany, has assumed in the pattern of trade of the various members of the joint European float and the countries associated with it. With world trade expected to increase this year, competitive devaluation is not regarded as a matter of pressing urgency by many of the smaller European nations that make up the joint European float and its associates. On the other hand an upward valuation of the mark could bring an increase in their domestic inflationary pressures.

Except for Holland and Belgium, where exports to West Germany are roughly as important as their imports from the Federal Republic, most of the snake and associated countries depend more on West Germany as a supplier of imported goods than as a market for their exports.

Thus in 1974, according to figures from the OECD, West Germany absorbed 30 per cent of Dutch exports and provided 27 per cent of the country's imports. In the case of Belgium and Luxembourg exports to West Germany accounted for 21.5 per cent of total exports, while 22 per cent of imports came from the Federal Republic.

The relative dependency on imports from West Germany is higher in the case of the other partners and associates. In the case of Denmark, 19.7 per cent of imports came from West Germany last year whereas Germany took only 13.3 per cent of Danish exports. Also in the snake, 14.4 per cent of Norwegian imports in 1974 came from Germany while the proportion of Norwegian exports going to Germany was only 10.45 per cent.

This divergence was even more pronounced in the case of Sweden, a snake member, and Switzerland and Austria—two countries which have kept their currencies closely in line with the German mark and hence the joint European float. In 1974 goods from West Germany accounted for 18.8 per cent of Swedish imports, while West Germany took only 9.8 per cent of Swedish exports.

In the case of Switzerland, the proportions were 31.9 per cent and 14.7 per cent and in that of Austria they were 40.1 per cent and 19.6 per cent respectively.

Between 40 and 50 per cent of the imports of the smaller snake members come from other countries in the floating block, whereas for exports the only significant divergence from this rule of thumb is Sweden, which sends only 30 per cent of its exports to other snake countries.

As far as Germany is concerned, its snake partners last year provided 24 per cent of its imports and took 19.7 per cent of its exports.

The conclusion must be that the countries making up the European joint float form a fairly cohesive economic co-operation zone which, in terms of overall trade and particularly imports, is of greater relative importance for the smaller members than it is for West Germany.

This perhaps goes some way to explaining why for the smaller members currency upsets within the snake are just as unwelcome as they are to West Germany, which hopes that a recovery in exports will help secure its present economic revival.

Peter Norman

How Lancashire bluntness turned into sweet success

Anyone asked to choose the worst place and the worst possible time to try to launch a new business in a largely unproven market during the past 10 to 15 years might be hard put to it to come up with a better combination than the north-east Lancashire town of Burnley in the early 1960s.

Not that Burnley is in any way uniquely awful. In fact, as Lancashire industrial towns go, it has a certain rugged charm. It is simply that that time saw it struggling against industrial crisis, getting precious little help from anyone and on the face of it hardly the most promising launch pad for any bright new enterprise.

The whole Calder Valley, based on Burnley and its neighbour Blackburn, was suffering the worst effects of the massive contraction of the textile industry. Mill closures in north-east Lancashire brought the loss of 35,000 jobs between 1953 and 1967 and about 17,000 of these went in the huge "rationalization" programmes following the Cotton Industry Act of 1959. Burnley's casualty list was a big one.

Paradoxically it was also at the start of the 1960s when these mill closures were taking their heaviest toll, that north-east Lancashire was deprived of its development area status when a new Local Employment Act replaced the former regional aid policies. This meant that any new firm starting up in the area could claim none of the grants, or other forms of special aid that were still available elsewhere.

There were plenty of pieces that could offer a better deal—and probably a far more optimistic outlook—than Burnley. But it was against this bleak local background—and with much worse to come in terms of regional and national economic problems—that a family named Bate formed their new engineering company in the town in 1962.

The firm, I. D. Packaging, with Mr Fred Bate as its managing director has, in the event, become one of the outstanding success stories of north-east Lancashire's struggle to rebuild its industrial base over the past decade.

In the lead

The formation of the company, in which all of the principals were qualified engineers, coincided with the introduction to Britain of a new packaging process, using plastic film, known as "shrink wrapping".

I. D. Packaging has led the technology of this country and many others in the design, development and manufacture of machinery used in this process. Its general purpose machines have gone into some 1,500 separate packaging systems used by manufacturing industries of all kinds, and it has produced a large number of "one off" systems for companies operating in specialized fields.

Industry in the Regions

Now it has put British technology well ahead in the increasing competitive field of packaging machinery through a joint venture with the National Research Development Corporation. It has just launched a new generation of high speed machines, based on a unique principle, that will almost certainly find important new markets both here and abroad.

When Mr Bate and his engineering colleagues invented their new Rapidrap principle and started to design the machines to fit it they ran into an all too-familiar problem. A first-class idea, all the know-how and skills to put it into practice, but not enough money to see the project through the crucial research and development stages.

Mr Bate looked around for help and found it difficult to come by. "There was only one thing to do", he says. "I contacted the Prime Minister. I told Mr Wilson we had a first class idea and no money, and asked him what he could do about it."

NRDC funding

The eventual outcome of this blunt approach was the involvement of the NRDC which made a substantial contribution to the development costs of the Rapidrap system, and now the installation of the first commercial machines at the Graham and Brown's wallpaper manufacturing plant in nearby Blackburn.

Mr Bate says: "The NRDC funding has enabled us to bring the new system to the market-place very much sooner than would otherwise be possible".

The main advantage of ID Packaging's new system is that it can match the speed of shrink wrapping to that of modern manufacturing processes, with operating rates up to six or seven times faster than with machines that have so far been available. It also significantly reduces waste of expensive raw materials and has minimum labour requirements.

Capable of handling everything from frozen chickens to large canisters and cartons, it is versatile enough to cope with any manufacturing process to which the plastic film type of wrapping can be applied.

Fred Bate and his company will not of course solve the problems of Burnley, or indeed of north-east Lancashire, on their own. But they are a good example of the sort of new enterprise which, albeit slowly, is helping to steer the older cotton towns into a new industrial future.

Mr Bate, who can turn a Churchillian phrase with the best, puts it this way: "It is our philosophy that the day of the entrepreneur is not yet over, and that our spirit of growth and adventure will continue to flourish in the challenging years ahead." Which, you might say, just about wraps it up.

R. W. Shakespeare

Business Diary in Europe: Lending publicity . . .

The European Community's first loans to help prop up the ailing Italian and Irish economies are being launched this week amid a blaze of publicity.

First, there is a press conference today, featuring Wilhelm Haferkamp, the European Commissioner for economic and financial affairs, and the heads of the bank consortia who have raised the $1,300m involved; then there will be a series of public signing ceremonies today and tomorrow for the benefit of photographers; and finally, members of the Commission, their staff and bankers are to attend a reception tonight which will also be open to the press.

After further setbacks along the road to economic and monetary union, like the latest French decision to withdraw from the Community's currency "snake", the Commission as a whole understandably wants to make the most of one, albeit modest, success story.

But there is also a suspicion that the events surrounding the launching of the loans are partly designed to throw a favourable spotlight on Haferkamp. This West German socialist, who has so far failed to make much impact in the Commission, is known to be worried about his public image.

Although he apparently wants to stay in Brussels when a new Commission is appointed at the beginning of next year, he is not very popular back in Bonn. If he is forced to leave by Helmut Schmidt, the West German Chancellor, or by a Christian Democrat victory in the forthcoming German elections, he might be hard pressed to find alternative employment.

Wilhelm Haferkamp

Moscow mission

One of the men behind the expansion of the Russian merchant fleet, an expansion much resented by the free world, free booter shipping lines, has agreed to speak to a gathering of western shipowners, shipbuilders and bankers in London next week.

Igor Averin is head of foreign relations at the Ministry of Merchant Marine in Moscow, and he will address a conference organized by the monthly shipping journal, Seatrade, on a Soviet view of international liner shipping. Sharing the bill with Comrade Averin on this particular subject will be Ed Heine, president of United States Lines Inc, one of the largest liner companies in America, and Philip Bates, chairman of Atlantic Container Line Services.

The expansionist tactics of the Russians in the merchant shipping field have upset the shipowners of the free world to the extent that, throughout Europe, leaders of the shipping industry have been indulging in discreet chats with government leaders.

The free world shipping lines, operating through rate fixing cartels or shipping conferences, have made it clear that they do not object to fair competition, but they strongly resent what they regard as the distinctly unfair tactics of Moscow in being prepared to pare rates back to totally "unprofitable" levels in order to attract the business.

But against the background of calls for legislation to curb the Russians' further development, Seatrade itself last month published a special study of Soviet shipping. One of the points made was that the Russians insist that the motive for the mercantile fleet expansion is to meet the needs of increasing foreign trade.

Averin is likely, however, to find himself quizzed pretty closely by shipping men who, being a naturally sceptical lot, are unlikely to set much store by formal and official enunciations.

Paris mod cons

For about £20 a day British companies which want to reconnoitre French exports markets can now have an office in Paris all to themselves with which to do it, thanks to a new initiative by the British Chamber of Commerce in France.

The office, which can be hired for periods ranging from the half day to the month, is equipped with secretarial, telephone and telex facilities and is by the Paris Opera, with the Café de la Paix just opposite. It has just been opened by Sir Derek Ezra, chairman of the National Coal Board and chairman of the European Trade Committee.

The office also offers the prospecting British exporter the use of the chamber's information services and library free of charge.

Swiss puzzle

Many solid burghers in the Swiss capital of Berne are puzzled as to the real motives of the new owners of the celebrated Bellevue Palace Hotel. For the Swiss National Bank has quietly acquired 51 per cent of the hotel's stock from its director Jost Schmidt.

Nobody is disclosing the full history of the transaction, which has surprised Swiss banking gnomes in the same way that the purchase by the Bank of England of a majority stake in the Savoy would puzzle the City.

But apparently the deal was carried out at the behest of the Swiss government to prevent the Bellevue Palace falling into the hands of unnamed foreign interests.

The hotel lies next to the seat of the Swiss government and the parliament in Berne and has been used frequently for official receptions and putting up official visitors. But these are hardly thought good enough reasons for turning the Swiss central bank into a hotelier.

Irish charm

Liam Cosgrave, the Irish prime minister, plans to be on his way back to Dublin today after the six-day visit to the United States which brought forth that speech urging Irish expatriates to stem the flow of illegal arms into Ireland.

Though this speech made a big splash both in the republic and in the United Kingdom, he is hoping to follow it up this week with another, specifically for domestic consumption.

As he left America at the weekend he let it be known that on his arrival home he would be able to announce a number of "major new investments" by American companies in his country.

Cosgrave's goal is full employment not this year or next but in 1986. That requires 200,000 new jobs over the next 10 years, 80,000 of which are being sought from foreign investment.

He told the Ireland-United States Council for Commerce and Industry in New York on Saturday night that the republic offered both access to the EEC and a "tax holiday" on export profits.

A recent report in Business Diary in Europe suggested that the French-based Centre Européen de Co-opération Internationale had yet to receive support from French business. In fact, CECI has five French corporate subscribers.

Tioxide Group Limited

International manufacturers of titanium pigments

"Results for 1975 demonstrate underlying strength in a period of recession." D. M. Bell, Chairman

	1975 £m	1974 £m
Sales	93.0	95.2
Group Trading Profit	9.3	25.4
Taxation	4.4	11.7
Available to Shareholders	4.7	10.6
Earnings per Ordinary Share	22.0p	52.0p
Dividends paid or proposed	14½p	14½p

With inflation taking its full effect on costs and with sales margins limited by tough competition and by price control it was found impossible to maintain profit levels at the lower sales volumes obtainable. The UK Company suffered the biggest reduction in output due to the sharp decline in its export business and did well to cut costs and achieve a modest trading profit.

There was an upturn in business in the fourth quarter of 1975 and the improvement has continued. The 1975 results demonstrate the inherent strength of this international business in a year in which the world chemical industry experienced the worst recession since the war.

Tioxide
TITANIUM PIGMENTS

Tioxide Group Limited (formerly British Titan Limited) operates companies in Britain · Australia · Canada · France · South Africa and Spain.

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FINANCIAL NEWS AND MARKET REPORTS

Prudential, Philips and AP Cement

MONDAY.—Interims. — Adams Foods (Ameoded), Hugh Baird, and Staffordshire Potteries. Finals.—Camellia Invest, Homo Counties Newspapers, Low and Bonar, Norvic, Rolls-Royce Motors, Sale Tilney.

TUESDAY.—Interims. — A .B. Electronics, City and Iutl, Tst, Consolidated Gold Fields, and Scottish Metropolitan Props. Finals.—A.P. Cemeot, British Mohair Spinner, Brown Bros, John I. Jacobs, Stooe-Plart, Tomatin Distillers, Turner and Newall, United Newspapers.

WEDNESDAY.—Interims. — A. Beckman, Blackwood Morton, Dawnay Day, Sanderson Murray aod Eldor.

Finals.—Aluminium Corp, Barton and Sons, R. Cartwright, Federated Land and Building, General Accident, Ladbroke, F. J. C. Lilley, News Intl, Rockwara Group, Slough Ests, Totalisators and Greylnood, aud Tube Invests.

THURSDAY. — Interims. — Andio Fidelity, A. Gallenkamp, Lucas Inds, Pressac, and F. W. Thorpe. Finals.—Black and Edgington, Beotima, Bernard Matthews, Brutons (Musselburgh), Crane Fruehauf, J. Hewitt (Fenton), Magoolia Mfg, Prudential Ass, Royal Worcester and TPT.

FRIDAY. — Interim. — Pifco. Finals. — Anglowest, Beatson Clark, Coates Bros, North Brit Canadiao Invest, Philips Lamps, Relyon PBWS, R.K.T. Textiles, Robert Kitchen Taylor.

Feuding over Fisons, the case for oils

The AIP crash earlier this mooth did a demolition job on property shares hut recent activity still points to recovery possihilities.

The latest broker to air its views on the sector. Josoph Sebag claims that the forecasts of different managemeuts provide the key to selective investmeut.

Toe guide weot to print before the AIP failuro, hut Sehag did say that the shares represented a speculativo medium, a description they also hestow oo Town and Commercial.

As investmeots it suggests that EPC still has considerable

Brokers' views

poteotial while MEPC should have sufficient financial strength to overcome recent difficulties ooce management problems have heeo resolvod.

Othar buying opportunities ara said to be presented by British Land and Beroard Sunley.

Hammersoo comes in for particular praise. Sebag says that tbe group is In a class of its own. Its valuation policy has never been particularly well understood aod on the basis of Sehag's owo estimated net asset value the shares look cheap.

Elsewhere oil shares still command attention despite widespread disappointment with BP's statement last week. De Zoete & Bevan says that although profit margins on OPEC oil will remain very narrow, the outlook for many companies will he transformed hv the receipt of substantial incomo from investments in natural gas liquefaction and transportation.

The broker suggests that investors should hold an above-average weigutiog of oil maiors and recommends BP. Burmah is a speculative huy on hopes of reduced tnoker commitments. Shell is also rated as attractive.

Rowe Rodd also makes Shell a good purchase on a combinatioo of the falling pound, renewed interest in overseas oarners, a low p/e and the prospect of risiog earnings in 1976.

Simon & Coates recommeods Rank Organisation after a company visit, and it predicts moderate iocreases in 1975-76 and 1976-77 results.

The Fisons £20m rights issue finds Hart, Morris, and Williams de Broe Hill Chaplin at odds. Williams recommends a switch into either ICI or Glaxo, poioting out that United Stares shareholders' rights will have to be sold in the market. By contrast Hart, Morris points to prospects of a hetter performance if doubts over the company are resolved. It advises holders to take up the issue.

Scott, Goff Hancock sticks to its view that ICL should produce an above-average performance in the next twelve months following last week's proposed takeover of Singer's international operations.

Richard Allen

£900,000 profit part of E Sussex bid defence

In an explanation of why the Aurora Holdings offer of just over 30p a share is "wholly unacceptable", Mr G. Suckling, chairman of East Sussex Engineering, puts unaudited profits for last year at £895,000 before tax, compared with £689,000.

He goes on to say that in view of the offer Tha Treasury now has agreed to a substantially increased dividend and a further payment of 1.79p is planned. This will give a total net dividend raised from 0.9p to 2.275p.

The board believes prospects are excellent, particularly in the United Kingdom. The chairman points out that the money needed to reequip British foundries between 1975 and 1980 has been assessed at £270m aod tho Government has recently confirmed that grants will be available for this of op to £40m. The group's foundry oquipment divisioo is "ideally placed" to take advantage.

Over the past three years East Sussex has not only substantially raised profits, says the chairman, bur has also achieved a strong cash flow. As a result at March 5 cash balances with hanks and local government loans totalled more than £550,000 and unused hank facilities stood at over £450,000.

The company is therefore in a strong financial position to take full advantage of opportunities for profitahlo expansion.

In tho original rejection by the board the chairman strongly deprecated the events that led to the offer and regretted tho precipitato sale of 45 per cent of the equity by shareholders before the board's view of the 1975 results had been expressed.

Squirrel Horn hopeful of continued profits as sales stay buoyant

All the aigns are that the present year will see a further marked increase in profits for Squirrel Horn, makers of confectionery, toffee and chocolate, writes Mr John Hardy, chairman, in his review. Sales remain good and steps are being taken to give a "significant increasa" to prodnctioo. But tho chairman warns it would he unrealistic to look for as large an increase as last year —from £145,000 to £332,000.

Commenting on those figures the chairman says they were brought about by huoyant sales, a tight control on costs and improved operating afficiency. But the year was not without its worries and the need to adjust selling prices to cover increased raw material costs was not always easy.

It is to the credit of those concerned that a satisfactory profit was made in spite of the fact that selling prices were held from May until the end of the year.

Higher dividends planned by Financière de Suez

Compagnio Financière de Suez, tha big Frēnch banking group, produced generally good results last year, says the chairman, M Caplain, in a statement to shareholders.

The two most important parts of the group Banque de l'Indochine and CIC have decided to increaso their dividends by 12 per cent and 26 per cent respectively, he says.

Because of the difficulties met by many parts of industry and the property market last year it had been feared that companies in which the group has interests would be affected.

But, in the main, they have withstood the unfavourahle trends well and in the majority of cases distributions will be maiotained and in some cases raised.

The credit balance on the profit end loss account is 15 per cent higher, as forecast, and current iocome is up by 29m francs or 14.5 per cent.

Sidney Banks look to good cereal harvest

Grain and seed group Sydney C Banks moved ahead in the opening half to eod November. On turnover up from £10.23m to £12.42m, taxahle earnings improved from £286,000 to £318,000. Earnings a share rose from 4.72p to 5.06p, and it pays an ioterim of 1.54p gross compared with 1.31p. Waivers were made on some 1.4m shares.

Adverse drilling conditions in the autumn of 1974 aod spring of 1975 took their toll on cereal yields, though the company managed alightly to increase the tonnage of grain handled. But better conditions last autumn hrought a large increase in the acreage of sowing. Present indications are for an increase in the 1976 cereal harvest.

Sales surge by John Lewis

Reporting a "splendid first week's trade" in its new Brent Cross branch, the John Lewis Partnership store group said sales rose last week to nearly £3.6m, an increase of 10.6 per cent over the same week last year. Sales of Waitrose, the group's food group, at more than £2.5m were up by 24.1 per *cent on the same period* last year.

Total sales were up by more than 16.3 per cent to £6m on the same week last year, and for the six weeks to March 13 were ahead by 13.1 per cent.

Cableform loss

Though Cableform, the Altrincham-based control gear maker, made a pretax loss of £12,000 against a profit of £16,000 for tha six months to September 30, the board does offer hope. It expects an improvement in the current half year after internal economies and there are already signs that trading is getting better.

There is again no interim dividend and the board will consido "any" final payout after the accounts are published. The accounts show a £43,000 loss from the sale of a business. Exports account for 65 per cent of all sales.

Marketing deal by Muirhead

Muirhead, the go-ahead Beckenham electronics group, has sigoed an agreement with Periphonics Corporation of tho United States to market Voice Responso Systems in Europe.

The system allows any ordinary telephoge to become a computer terminal by the attachment of a small, inexpensive keyboard. It is widely used in America by both the banking and industrial fraternities.

Late last year Muirhead said orders were at a record level and the hope was expressed that profits in the year to September would reach £1.5m, against £1.1m.

Sec City on course

Second City Properties, in private and public building devolopments, moved ahead in the first half to October 31, but is not hazarding a full-time forecast "in difficult times". In the latest half, pre-tax earnings climbed from £433,000 to £456,000 and the "net" from £208,000 to £219,000. The interim dividend is up from 0.61p to 0.7p gross.

In the previous full year to end-April, 1975, profits increased for the tenth year running from £865,000 to £883,000.

Volvo sell more but profits dip

Profits of Volvo Group last year before allocations and tax fell from 737m kronor to 5[illegible] kronor (£56m) even though total sales soared 30 per cent to 13,692m kronor.

Broken down, sales of cars rose 35 per cent to 7,[illegible] kronor, trucks 30 per cent to 2,990m kronor and buses 52 per cent to 321m kronor.

Excluding the Volvo Car B acquisition the workforce was increased by 500 during the year to 63,200 and gross capital expenditure was up from [illegible] kronor to 1,035m kronor.

Clark sells offshoot

Clark Equipment, the automotive transmission machinery group, has agreed to sell the United States assets and business of its refrigeration division to a new company—the Tyler Refrigeration Corp.

This new concern is formed by the present management of the division and institutional investors led by Carl Marks, a New York City investment banking firm.

Clark originally bought the Tyler Refrigeration Corp in 1963 and the Delfield company in 1969. The Clark refrigeration division was formed last year by merging both thesa divisions. On December 31 Clark sold its commercial refrigeration operations in Europe to Linde AG of West Germany.

Share stakes

Vosper Thornycroft has increased its holdings in Yarrow and Co to 800,000 ordinary shares (20 per cent).

Park Place Investments has sold all its 261,000 Geers Gross shares. Cunningham and Walsh Inc has bought a further 26,700 Geers Gross shares bringing its total holding to 156,800 shares (12.05 per cent).

J. H. Vavasseur Group has bought 20,000 Mills and Allen International ordinary shares, bringing total interest to 7,250,000 ordinary shares (78.15 per cent).

Mr W. G. Haydon-Baillie has disposed of 50,000 Walsham shares, reducing his holding to 310,000 shares.

BRITISH BENZOL

British Benzol Carbonising managing director, Mr H. Procter, *reports that demand has increased* in past few months, with a "consequent and satisfactory" improvement in profitability.

Weekly list of fixed interest stocks

	Latest Price	Prev Week
Alb & Wilson 7¼ Deb '85-00	58¼	59¼
All Pty Hldgs 8¼ Ln '92-97	50	50¼
All Brew 6¾ Deb '87-92	49¼*	50¼*
Do 7¾ Ln '93-98	57¼*	57¼*
Ass Bis 7¾ Deb '90-95	60	60
AB Foods 5¼ Ln '87-2002	18*	18¼*
Assoc Elec 6 Deb '78-83	68¾	69¾
Do 5¾ Deb '86-91	55¾	55¾
AP Cement 7 Deb '88-93	53	53¼
Do 9 Deb '92-97	63¼	64¼
BICC 7¾ Deb '90-95	60¼	58¾
BOC Int 5¾ Deb '81-86	61	61¼
Do 9 Tonnage '88	74¼	75
Bank of Ireland 7 Ln '26-91	62*	62¼*
Barclays Bk 8¼ '86-95	60¼	62¼
Barclays Int 7¼ Ln '86-91	56¼	57¼*
Bass Char 5¼ Ln '87-93	52¾*	52¾*
Do 7¾ Ln '92-97	62	63¾*
Do 8¼ Deb '87-92	60*	60*
Beecham 6 Ln '78-83	65¾	66¼
Do 8¼ Ln '84-94	53¾*	62¼*
Bibby 10¼ Deb '94-99	68	68
Birmid Qual 7¼ Ln '87-92	53¼*	53¼*
Boots 6 Ln '78-83	62¾*	63¼*
Do 7¾ '88-93	56*	58¼*
Bridon 8 Deb '88-93	59¼	59*
Brit Am Tob 7 Ln '82-87	69¼*	60¼*
Brit Leyland 6 '98-2003	39	38¼
Do 7¾ Ln '87-92	37	37¼*
Do 8 Ln '98-2003	58¼	57*
Brit Petrol 5 Deb '74-78	86	87
Do 6 Deb '76-80	77¼	77¼
Brit Steam 7 '80-82	76¼	76¼
Brooke Bond 5¼ Ln 2003-08	38¼	34¾
Burmah Oil 4¾ Deb '68-81	66¼	66¼
Do 8¼ Ln '91-96	39¼	42
Do 7¾ Ln '81-86	44¼	46¼
Burton CP 2¾ Ln '98-2003	61¼*	61¼*
Cadbury Schweppes 8¼ Ln '94-2004	69¾	69¾
Do 9 '88-93	64¼	66¼
Coats Patons 4¼ Ln 2003-08	30	31
Do 7¼ '90-95	63	63
Crage 6¾ Ln 2004-09	43¼	43¼
Do 8 2nd Deb '89-94	60¼	60¾
Courtaulds 6¾ Ln '94-96	44¼*	44¼*
Do 7 '82-87	60¼*	60¼*
Do 7¾ Deb '89-94	56*	57¼*
Debenhams 6¾ 2nd Deb	45¼*	45¼*
Do 6¾ Ln '86-91	49¼*	49*
Do 7¾ Ln 2002-07	53	53
Distillers 7¾ Ln '88-93 '85-90	53¾	54¾
Dunlop 6¾ 2nd Deb	55	55*
EMI Ln '87-92	55	55
English Elec 6 Deb '80-85	67¼	68
Esso 6 Deb '77-80	79¼	79¼
Fisons 6¾ 2nd Deb '84-89	56	56¾
Gallaher 6 Ln '83-85	61¼	61¼
Gen Acc 7¾ '92-97	54	53¾
GEC 7¾ Ln '88-93	56¾	56¼*
Glaxo 7¾ Ln '85-95	28½	28¼
Glynwed 10¾ Ln '94-96	70¼*	71*
GUS 5¾ Ln '1976	54¼	54¼
Do 7¾ Ln '82-88	66¼*	65¼*
Do 8¾ Ln '93-98	57¼	57¼
Hawker Sid 7¾ Deb '87-92	57¼	50¼
ICI 5¾ Ln '94-2004	36¾	37¼
Do 7¾ Ln '86-91	56¼	56
Do 8 '88-93	56	58¼
Imperial Gp 4 Ln '75-80	71¼	71¼
Do 7¾ 2004-09	53	55
Do 10¾ Ln '90-95	75¼	75¼

	Latest Price	Prev Wk
Initial Services 8 Ln '88-93	57¼*	56
Int Stores 7¾ Ln 2003-08	50¼	52¼
Land Secs 8¼ 1992-97	50¼*	51
Laporte 10¼ Deb '94-99	71*	71*
Lewis's Inv Tst 6¾ 2nd '83-90	53¼	55¼
Lucas J. 7¾ Ln '85-88	59¼	60¼
MEPC 8 Ln 2000-05	41*	44¼*
Metal Box 10¾ Ln '92-97	75¼	76
Midland Bank 10¾ Ln '93-98	77	76¾
Nat West Bank 9 Ln 1993	68¼	69¼
Ranks Hovis 6¾ Ln '76-81	69*	69*
Do 6¾ Ln '85-88	53¼	55
Do 8¼ Ln '91-95	60¼	60¼
Reckitt & Col 6¾ Deb '82-90	58¼	58¼
Reed Int 7¾ Deb '90-96	56¾	56¾
Rendld 7¾ Ln '93-97	53	53
Reyrolle Parsons 7¾ Ln '88-93	54¼*	54¼*
Rugby Port Cem 6¾ '93-98	42¼	42¼
Do 7¾ Ln '93-98	55	55
Sainsbury (L) 7¾ Deb '87-92	57	57
Scot Newcastle 4¼ Deb '71-76	66¼	66¼
Do 7¾ Deb '89-94	59	59
Slater Walker 9 Loan '91-96	53¼	53¼
Slough Est 7¾ Deb '85-90	69	69
Smith (W. H.) 8¼ Ln '93-98	61¼	61
Spillers 7 Deb '78-83	70¼	70¼
Do 7¾ Deb '84-89	56¼	56¼
Tate & Lyle 7¾ Deb '89-94	56*	55¼
Thomson Org 3 Deb '64-94	45¼	45¼
Do 7¾ Ln '87-92	56¼	56¼
Tilling (T) 8¼ Ln '89-93	61¼	61¼
Tootal 4¾ Perp Deb	30¼	30
Do 6¾ '85-90	56¼	56¼
Truman Ltd 7¾ Deb '86-93	53¼*	54¼*
Do 10¾ Deb '92-96	73¼*	73¼
Tube Invest 9 Ln '89-94	63	60
Turner & Newall 8 Ln '87-93	59	59
UDS 7¾ Deb '85-90	60¼*	60¼*
Do 10¾ Deb '89-94	73¼*	73¼
Unigate 6¾ Ln '91-96	44¼*	46¼*
Do 7¾ Deb '86-91	61¼	61¼
Unilever 6¾ Deb '88-93	56*	56¼*
Welleys 7¾ Ln '94-99	50¼	50¼
Do 8 Ln '90-95	55	54¼
Whitbread 7¾ Ln '95-99	51	51¼
Do 7¾ Ln '96-2000	55¼	55¼
CONVERTIBLES		
Amest 8 '89-94	91¼	91¼
AB Foods 7¾ '94-2004	175	175
BPB 7¾ '89-94	98*	98*
Bowring C. T. 5 1981	93	90
Brittains 10¾ '92-96	92	84¼
Brooke Bond 7 2003-08	48¼	50
GEC 7¾ '87-92	144¼	141¼
Grand Met 10 '91-96	94¼	104¼
Guest Keen 6¾ 1985	93¼	95¼
Hepworth Ceramic 11 1976	97	99
Ind and Gen 4¼ '94-99	82¼	92¼
Lucas J. 6¾ 1980	85¼*	90¼
MEPC 5 '89-91	67¼*	68
Midland Bank 7¾ '83-93	75¼	77¼
Ready Mixed 8¼ 1978	96	95¼
Romney Tst 4¾ '73-98	77	75
Stock Conv 2¾ 1984	111¼	111¼
Temple Bar 5¾ '88-90	71¼	74
Trust Hse Forf 6¾ '83	110	110

* Ex dividend.

Business appointments

Vice-chairman for Grundig

Dr F. J. Stubert has been appointed executive vice-chairman of Grundig International in place of Dr H. M. Werner, who has left the company.

Mr Derek Wilde, a vice-chairman of Barclays Bank, has been made chairman of the recently-formed Barclays Insurance Brokers International. With him on the board are Sir Richard Pease, Mr Gordon Adam, Mr Peter Maitland, Mr Harold Head, Mr Roonld Beacroft and Mr Michael Will. Mr Jobo Horne has been appointed an executive director.

Mr S. M. Sander joins the board of Maxlim Fashions. Mr S. V. Siegal has resigned.

Mr Peter Harrison and Mr Gerard Storr have heen appointed main board directors of Feeder.

Mr L. E. Bishop has joined the board of Scottish Assam Tea.

Mr Jan D. Altink has been appointed to the baard of First Chicago Limited, the London-based merchant banking arm of The First National Bank of Chicago.

Mr Bill Matheys has become a director of Partridges of Sloane Street.

Mr E. Stott has joined the boards of Beaufort Air-Sea Equipment, Glyn Protective Clothing and Li-Lo as financial director.

Mr W. H. G. Sadler has been appointed to the board of Cedar Holdings as a oon-executive director.

Mr A. J. Skivington has been made a director of Rush and Tompkins Group.

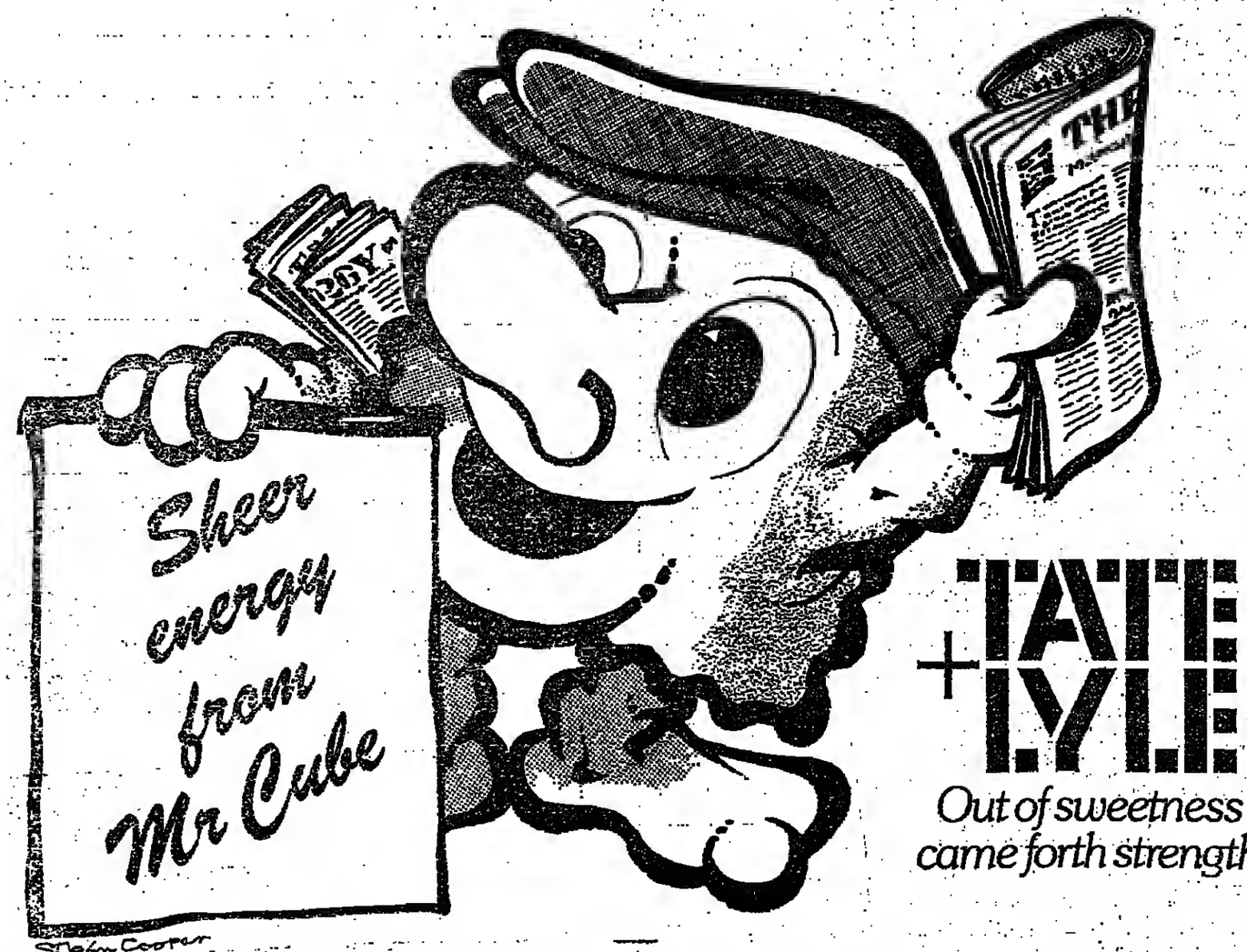
Mr M. C. d'E. Miller has been appointed chairman of Alcan Foils. Mr G. H. Campbell succeeds him as managing director.

Mr F. E. Humble becomes chairman and M Claude Spire, managing director of Imbel-Beico SA, the newly-formed subsidiary of Plantation Holdings.

Read all about it.

* Another year of record profits.
* Britain's cane sugar supplies assured.
* Group's strong cash position.
* 1976 going well.

Points from the speech by the Chairman, Mr John Lyle, at the Annual General Meeting on Wednesday 17th March 1976.



FINANCIAL NEWS AND MARKET REPORTS

Molybdenum find in Alaska is grist to RTZ mill

Much interest has been generated by the news from United States Borax of a discovery of a major molybdenum deposit in south-eastern Alaska. The project is in its early stages and much work still needs to be done by way of further exploration drilling and evaluation, and it would be unreasonable to expect the prospect to become a revenue producer before 1980 at the earliest—possibly seven later.

But the real interest lies not so much in the confirmation of a major find in itself, but in the implications for Rio Tinto-Zinc as well as of a new source of molybdenum outside the domain of Amax, the world's single largest producer.

United States Borax is a wholly owned subsidiary of RTZ, and like the rest of its offshoots has a considerable degree of independence, although it probably carries this, together with an inordinate sense of secrecy, further than any of the other companies.

For RTZ it demonstrates once more the company's expertise in seeking out new mineralization deposits—and ones that will pay off—while a large molybdenum operation will add to the spread and diversification of its operations.

So far it has been established that the potential ore body is upwards of 100 million tons with grades ranging between 0.2 and 0.35 per cent molybdenum sulphides. The company says: "The potential for increasing the tonnages both laterally and at depth is considered excellent."

The mineralization is close to the surface and will therefore be amenable to being mined by open pit methods, an area where RTZ—with such mammoth operations as Palabora and Bougainville—has shown itself to be a past master.

The special properties of molybdenum—used for hardening steel and non-ferrous metals as well as providing resistance to corrosion—give it a faster projected growth rate than that of steel. Growth of demand for stainless steel alone is projected at some 3 to 5 per cent a year.

Once in production, the mine could be earning RTZ perhaps as much as 2.5p a share net. This will be small beer by RTZ's standards but it will be one of those useful sidelines that can prove to be a good prop if other things start going wrong.

RTZ has been largely unaffected by the South African situation, despite the high hopes—and earnings—held out for the Rossing uranium mine, situated in Namibia, but this has coincided with the strong copper price rally to which RTZ is highly geared.

Mining

The share price has underperformed the *FT* index of late and, notwithstanding horrible full-year figures due next month, RTZ still offers the cum-premium investor with the best of the home-based mining operators to go for, even if it is on a p/e ratio of about 14 on last year's estimated earnings.

Still on the subject of United Kingdom mining finance houses, Consolidated Gold Fields has been trying for some time to lessen its dependence on South Africa, where it has 49 per cent of Gold Fields of South Africa. This was a useful bit of foresight, although arguably somewhat late in the day. But hence the fact that it has again been on the acquisition trail, particularly in the United States.

Currently Consolidated Gold, at 158p, is languishing just 14p above its 1975/76 low and some 45 per cent below its peak for the year. It has some way to go to persuade investors that it is loosening ties with South Africa, and it could start by stimulating its Canadian operations.

And now for something completely different. A little-noticed recent event has been the appointment of Mr Fred Jowsey as president of a little known Canadian company, Canuc, which is an over-the-counter stock dealt in Toronto and with a chequered history.

Mr Jowsey is on the board of Denison Mines, although not in an executive capacity. By happy chance Canuc has some claims in the Elliot Lake area of Ontario in the heart of the uranium country and is bordered, in part, by Denison and Rio Algom.

The zone running through Denison's land has been traced through to part of Canuc's property before being cut off to the west by a scour. However, on the basis of two drill holes the company has inferred 7 to 10 million tons of uranium bearing conglomerate grading 1.86lb uranium oxide a tonne. Canuc is hoping to reach agreement with an organization, possibly a public utility, shortly which will leave the rest of the work to the utility in return for a cash payment.

That still leaves the land to the west of the scour open for prospecting and if one goes on sheer location alone the chances must be reasonable.

The shares were suspended in Quebec and Ontario last year, but trading was resumed in Toronto a few weeks ago. The price has historically been highly volatile and the spread wide. The cum-premium price is currently 165p-185p in a narrow market. It is uncertain if there would be any dividend payment if an agreement is reached with a utility, but for those looking for a punt on an outright speculation Canuc might fit the bill.

Desmond Quigley

Copper producers remain anxious despite upward trend in prices

Commodities

Although currency difficulties have intervened to add weight to factors sending up copper prices opinion seems to be hardening that the present uptrend is no flash in the pan but that further significant price advances can be expected in the short term.

Optimistic forecasts are based not only on the bleak factors, such as the explosive situation in southern Africa, but on indications that recovery is indeed under way in the United States and on increased consumer interest in Europe.

Herr Günther Manns, Metallgesellschaft director in charge of the copper department, who was recently with a West German delegation to Zambia, said in Lusaka that copper prices were expected to rise sharply by the end of the year. The overall world economic situation was improving gradually and there were already indications that consumers were requiring more copper.

However, there is no lessening of anxiety about prices among members of the Council of Copper Exporting Countries (CIPEC) and Mr Axon Soko, Zambia's Mines Minister, has said that his country has no intention of scrapping the 15 per cent cutback in production which was agreed on by CIPEC in Lima, Peru, last November.

Mr Soko, a dedicated critic of the London Metal Exchange, said that there was no question of going back to full production because recent rises in copper prices on the LME were speculative. He was commenting on a Chilean statement that when CIPEC meets in Paris in July it will be asked to revise the cutback restrictions because of current higher world prices.

Tomorrow sees the opening of a four-day meeting in Geneva of world copper producers and consumers, organized by the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (Unctad) at the request of France, Zaire and CIPEC.

There has been two forerunners to the meeting. First, UNCTAD has issued a note for delegates—prepared before copper prices began moving up—advancing four alternative schemes to stabilize prices. Second, CIPEC last week issued a report for the fourth quarter of 1975 saying that if copper prices remain low, it is possible that there will be insufficient new capacity to meet future world demand.

The CIPEC report points out that low prices have caused the postponement of some plans to create new capacity and some of the steam has gone out of exploration.

The UNCTAD note to delegates says that copper prices might be stabilized by an arrangement similar to the International Tin Agreement. The aim would be to maintain prices within an agreed target range through a combination of an international stock and adjustments in supplies for export.

Although market prices would be left free to reflect market forces, they would be subject to the modifying influence of buffer stock operations and any export controls imposed from time to time. It is thought that this method would be preferable to the use of formal export quotas which would regulate on a continuing basis the volume of supplies entering the world market.

The other alternatives put forward in the note are:

1. Maintenance of a single administered price for all refined copper entering international trade, not unlike the scheme under which United States producers maintain an administered price for domestic copper sales. In this instance the scheme should represent an international arrangement between producers and consumers.

2. Observing or defending a minimum price at times of pressure no prices with exporters agreeing not to sell copper or allow it to be exported below a minimum price. Importers would support by such action as imposing levies on any imports offered at below the minimum price or would limit imports from exporters not participating in the agreement.

3. Under a rigid scheme of agreed minimum and maximum prices exporters and importers would undertake to trade at prices within the range, irrespective of the direction of trade. If this scheme also included quantitative supply and purchase commitments it would be a multilateral trade commitment.

Some hopes for the cocoa pact

Although the United States has definitely decided not to sign the International Cocoa Agreement negotiated in Geneva last October, and the Ivory Coast is still refusing to sign, glimmers of hope for the pact have emerged from the sixth session of the council of the International Cocoa Organization which ended in London last Thursday.

It is necessary that 80 per cent of the exporting members should adhere and apparently the Dominican Republic and Mexico have shown interest in signing. If they do so, and other members who have expressed willingness put their names to the pact, the 80 per cent condition will be met.

However, should the Ivory Coast, the Dominican Republic and Mexico all refrain, Mr U. K. Hackman, the ICO executive director, sees a way round. This would entail invoking a clause in the new agreement which would allow nations which do sign to put the pact into force.

Even if the pact is signed by the full 80 per cent of producers, some dealers question whether it can have a decisive influence on prices. The prospect that it can must be weakened in proportion to the number of nations remaining outside.

The United States refusal is in the belief that the agreement has been too loosely put together. The Ivory Coast does not like the price levels which have been built in, believing that a threshold of 55.5 cents a lb below which export quotas would operate is too low.

So far Ghana is the only nation actually to sign the pact although Brazil and Nigeria have said they plan to do so.

Wallace Jackson
Commodities editor

Euromarkets

The Eurobond market was unsettled this week by Europe's ranging currency crisis, which is jeopardizing prospects for Europe's economic recovery and political cohesion, AP-Dow Jones reports.

Fortunately, the two main Eurobond financing currencies—the dollar and the Deutsche mark—remained firm, so that bond prices in the secondary market held reasonably steady.

But the primary market suffered somewhat as investors refrained from making commitments until the currency outlook clarified.

Swiss banks, which are the largest investors in the Eurobond market, were avoiding dollar paper in case the Swiss franc was pulled up against the dollar by a revaluation of the Deutsche mark.

However, no big rush into Deutsche mark bonds could be detected.

A $50m seven-year note offering for the Mortgage Bank of Denmark appeared to be one of the victims of the currency crisis. The Danish government-guaranteed notes were priced at 99, bearing 9 per cent to yield 9.20 per cent at maturity. However, the issue dropped sharply to 96.5 bid in the after-market, which pushed the yield up to 9.71 per cent.

The decline reflected worries that Denmark was spending too much of its already modest reserves trying to keep its currency within the snake. Obviously, if Denmark should run out of foreign currency reserves entirely, it would not be able to service its outstanding foreign currency debt, which is very large in relation to the size of the country.

Syndicate sources said that underwriters had to take up more than 40 per cent of the issue.

A $100m note and bond offering of "AA"-rated Quebec Province did not perform particularly well in the after-market.

Both the $50m five-year notes bearing 8.5 per cent and the $50m eight-year bonds bearing 9 per cent fell from the subscription price of par to 98.5 bid on Friday, which indicated that participants in the syndicate selling group were forgoing their 1.5-point commission by selling the securities at 98.5.

An exception to the trend, however, was a $25m 10-year bond issue of Newfoundland and Labrador Hydro, which is guaranteed by the "A"-rated Province of Newfoundland. The bonds were priced at par bearing 9.5 per cent, and opened at around 100 to 100.5.

Briefly

SLATER WALKER
Slater, Walker Trust Management announce that the meetings of unit holders in Slater, Walker Scottish Trust, Slater, Walker Shamrock Trust and Slater, Walker Domestic Trust held for the purpose of passing an extraordinary resolution to amalgamate their trusts were adjourned until April 2 as the requisite quorum for each trust, being 50 per cent of the total units in issue, was not attained. At the adjourned meetings those unit holders present in person or by proxy will form a quorum. Votes already cast by proxy remain valid for the adjourned meetings.

FAMILY INVESTMENT TRUST
The Family Investment Trust announce that the British American and General Trust has purchased a further 20,000 shares of the company and now hold 444,000 shares (10.09 per cent).

FURNESS WITHY
Furness Withy announce that Eurocanadian Shipholdings has recently acquired a further £255,000 ordinary stock of the company and now hold £6,132,576 ordinary stock (22.88 per cent).

THOS W. WARD
Acceptances have been received for 10,208,894 ordinary shares of 25p each (about 78.7 per cent) of the 12,969,924 new ordinary shares offered by way of rights to ordinary shareholders.

ARIEL INDUSTRIES
Second interim dividend of 1.91p gross is being paid to ensure that previous dividend pattern is not disturbed by extension of current year to March 31 next. Results for current 16 months are not expected to greatly differ from previous 12 months.

VANTAGE SECURITIES
Total income for 1975, £28,000 (£37,000). Total payment, 0.5p gross (0.48p).

JAMES WILKES
Turnover for 1975 eased from £6.6m to £6.4m, while pre-tax profits fell from £799,000 to £375,000. Earnings a share are 5.7p (11.2p) and the dividend is 5.3p (5.14p).

WILLIAMS & JAMES
Dividend is raised from 0.52p gross to 0.6p. Turnover for 1975, £3.6m (£3m). Pre-tax profit, £359,000 (£193,000).

SHARPE & FISHER
Sales for 1975 rose from £8.1m to £10.2m, and pre-tax profits from £692,000 to £728,000. Dividend is 2.95p (2.68p).

Freight report

Tanker rates drifted lower, but by Friday brokers felt there was sufficient demand to send rates inching back upwards again. The vlccs formerly on charter to Newfoundland Refining continued to act as the Persian Gulf "loss leaders" with yet another vessel booked by Exxon to Europe at World-scale 19 ($2.07 a ton) a drop of one point (16 cents) and the fourth successive Newfoundland ship to take a cut.

However, Exxon remained in the market for vlccs, as well as three independent charterers. And with few March loaders available in the Persian Gulf, brokers Galbraith Wrightson commented that rates could work their way back upwards.

Dry cargo trades continue to look healthier with United States Gulf to Holland grain rates moving over $6 a ton, an improvement generally reflected throughout the markets.

Craig Howard

Bank Base Rates

Barclays Bank	9½%
First London Secs	9½%
C. Hoare & Co	*9½%
Lloyds Bank	9½%
Midland Bank	9½%
Nat Westminster	9½%
Rossminster ACC's	9½%
Shenley Trust	11½%
Williams & Glyn's	9½%

* 7-day deposits on sums of £10,000 and under, 5½%, up to £25,000, 6¼%, over £50,000, 6¾%.

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6¼% Convertible Sinking Fund Debentures Due 1984
OFFICERS' CERTIFICATE AND NOTICE
Pursuant to Section 3.05 of the Indenture dated as of March 15, 1969 between the Company and Morgan Guaranty Trust Company of New York as Trustee, Kagayaki Miyazaki, President and Representative Director and Tetsuo Takada, Senior Managing Director of the Company, do hereby certify and give notice as follows:
At its meeting held on March 10, 1976, the Board of Directors of the Company resolved that a stock dividend on its Common Stock at the rate of one share per 10 shares to the shareholders registered as of the record date hereinafter specified be proposed for approval to a general meeting of shareholders to be held on June 25, 1976. The record date in Japan is Wednesday, March 31, 1976 and the corresponding date in Brussels is Tuesday, March 30, 1976.
In witness whereof, we have hereunto set our hands this 18th day of March, 1976.
By KAGAYAKI MIYAZAKI
President and Representative Director
By TETSUO TAKADA
Senior Managing Director

More share prices
The following will be added to the London and Regional Share Price List tomorrow and will be published daily in Business News:
Commercial & Industrial:
Manchester Garages
Tavener Rutledge

M. J. H. NIGHTINGALE & CO LIMITED
62-63 Threadneedle Street, London EC2R 8HP. Tel: 01-638 8651

Capitalisation £000's	Company	Price Friday	Change week	Gross Div(p)	Yld %	p/e
875	Armitage & Rhodes	35	—	3.0	8.6	9.2
1,408	Deborah Services	106	+1	7.5	7.1	5.6
4,914	Henry Sykes	144	+1	4.9	3.4	9.6
2,849	Twinlock Ord	20	−2	0.9	4.6	4.9
2,573	Twinlock 12% ULS	64	—	12.0	18.8	—
2,616	Unilock Holdings	61	—	4.5	7.4	11.8

Eurobond prices (yields and premiums)

	Offer Price	Offer	Redmptn price	Yld
$ STRAIGHTS				
AIDC 10¼ 1981		100½		9.16
Air France 9¼ 1983		103½		8.61
Alcoa 9¾ 1988		98		9.91
ARDB 9½ 1980		103		8.83
Ashland 8 1987		93½		8.70
Barclays Bank 9¼ 1982		102½		8.88
BFCE 9 1982		103		8.40
Broken Hill Prop 9½ 1981		104½		8.58
British Steel Corp 8¼ 1989		90½		10.10
Burlington 7¾ 1987		93½		8.75
Carrier 8 1987		93½		9.04
CECA 8¾ 1982		101½		8.54
Chevron 7 1980		101		6.92
Conoco 7 1980		100		7.22
Conoco 8 1986		100½		8.00
Cons Foods 7½ 1991		91½		8.58
CSR 9½ 1980		103½		8.93
Curacao Tokyo 8¾ 1988		95½		9.33
Curacao Tokyo 10¼ 1981		103½		9.56
Cutler Hammer 8 1987		93		8.63
Dana 8 1987		93½		8.72
Denmark Kingdom 7½ 1990		88½		9.00
DSM 9½ 1980		102½		8.40
EIB 9 1980		103½		8.46
EIB 9½ 1985		104		9.03
Escom 9¾ 1985		99½		11.01
Escom 10¼ 1985		97		10.98
Escom Floating Rate 1982		96		9.41
First Chicago 7 1980		97½		7.35
GATX 8¼ 1987		98		8.89
Gould 9¾ 1983		105		9.26
Guardian Royal 8 1987		85		10.65
Gulf and Western 9¾ 1980		103½		8.85
ICI 7½ 1982		90		8.48
International Util 8¼ 1983		98½		8.67
Motorola 8 1987		96½		8.55
National Coal Board 8½ 1982		90½		10.10
New Zealand 9 1980		103½		8.10
New Zealand 9½ 1982		104½		8.38
Nippon Fudosan 10¼ 1983		104½		9.15
Nippon Steel 9½ 1980		102½		8.89
NA Rockwell 8¼ 1987		95½		8.91
Occidental 10 1981		103		9.63
Ontario Hydro 9 1980		104½		7.66
Pacific Lighting 8 1988		95½		8.64
Pacific Lighting 9¾ 1981		101½		8.44
Pennwalt 8 1987		93½		8.53
Pulaski Furn. 7½ 1987		95½		8.16
Scanrail 7½ 1990		92½		8.42
Scanrail 8¾ 1988		96½		8.73
Shell 7½ 1987		97½		7.92
Singer 11 1977		101½		10.96
Skandinaviska 10¼ 1981		107		8.77
Standard Oil 8¾ 1980		103½		7.38
Standard Oil 8½ 1986		101½		8.24
Standard Oil 8½ 1988		102½		8.27
Stalsforetag 9¾ 1980		102		8.84
Sybron 8¾ 1987		93½		9.61
Tenneco 7¾ 1981		93		8.94
Textron 7¾ 1987		91½		8.06
Transocean Gulf 7½ 1980		96½		8.24
Union Oil 7¾ 1987		100½		7.50
Williams & Glyn's 9¾ 1987		99		9.81
DM BONDS				
CFP 8¾ 1985		104½		7.88
Denmark 9¾ 1989		106½		8.48
ICI 8¾ 1982		102½		8.08
Mexico 9 1982		104½		8.17
National Westminster 8 1988		100½		8.00
Sumitomo Metal Ind 8¼ 1989		104		7.79
Sun Ins Fin 7½ 1988		101½		7.37
$ CONVERTIBLES	Offer price	Conv prem		
AMF 5 1987	74½	81.7		
American Express 4¼ 1987	84	59.8		
Beatrice Foods 4½ 1992	77	21.30		
Beatrice Foods 4½ 1991	110	13.76		
Beatrice Foods 4½ 1993	102	9.25		
Borden 5 1993	98	5.34		
Borden 6¾ 1991	108½	6.57		
Broadway Hale 3¾ 1987	78½	41.37		
Carnation 4 1988	85	23.66		
Chevron 5 1992	103	4.20		
Cummins 6¾ 1986	94	22.55		
Dart 4¾ 1987	92	56.15		
Eastman Kodak 4½ 1988	103½	9.58		
Economic Labs 4¾ 1987	81½	27.56		
Federated Dept Stores 4½ 1983	141½	2.76Dis		
Ford 5 1988	91	11.44		
Ford 4¾ 1986	101	11.17		
Gillette 4½ 1987	85	75.16		
Gould 5 1989	91	15.24		
General Electric 4¼ 1987	88½	56.65		
Gulf and Western 5 1988	107	1.76Dis		
Harris 5 1987	86½	30.02		
Honeywell 5 1986	85	97.84		
ITT 4½ 1987	80	58.55		
J Ray McDermott 4¾ 1987	129	0.46Dis		
JP Morgan 4½ 1987	115	4.04		
Nabisco 4¼ 1988	93½	37.61		
Owens Illinois 4½ 1987	103	3.00		
JC Penney 4¾ 1987	90½	30.73		
Revlon 4¾ 1987	103½	11.00		
Sperry Rand 4¼ 1988	103½	13.21		
Squibb 4¾ 1987	84½	37.14		
Texaco 4¾ 1988	79	37.77		
Union Carbide 4¼ 1983	135	0.00		
Warner Lambert 4¼ 1987	84½	38.91		
Xerox Corp 5 1988	79	85.67		

Source: Kidder, Peabody Securities, London

Unit Trust Prices—change on the week

FT Index change on week 394.3 − 15.7 (3.82%)

Prev Week Offer	Ch'ge on Week	Trust	Bid	Current Offer	Yield
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]

Local Government, Public & Educational Appointments

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL

COUNTY SECRETARY AND SOLICITOR'S DEPARTMENT

DEPUTY COUNTY SOLICITOR

(£10,026-£10,647)

required following retirement of the present postholder at the end of June. Applicants should be mature solicitors with several years' local government experience.

Disturbance allowance paid in appropriate cases.

Further details and application form, returnable by 15 April, from the County Personnel Officer, County Hall, Maidstone.

Please quote Ref. A8628/TT.

ROYAL FREE HOSPITAL SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

(UNIVERSITY OF LONDON)
8 HUNTER STREET, LONDON WC1N 1BP

Applications are invited for the post of

Secretary to the School

Candidates should have experience in senior administrative appointments, preferably in a University. Salary £7,857 plus £450 London Allowance (Grade IV). U.S.S. superannuation. The successful candidate will be required to take up the appointment in July, 1976 or as soon as possible thereafter.

Applications (8 copies) including the names of 2 referees should be addressed to the Dean, from whom further particulars may be obtained.

Closing date 14 April, 1976.

DEVON

GRENVILLE COLLEGE, BIDEFORD

A Woodard Independent School required for September, 1976 A GRADUATE to teach MATHEMATICS throughout the school and some Nuffield Physics for juniors (aged 12 and 13). Ability to teach Statistics as an O or A level subject would be an additional recommendation. This could be a residential post for single applicants. Burnham.

Apply to the Headmaster, Grenville College, Bideford, enclosing curriculum vitae and the names of two referees.

PROFESSIONAL INSTITUTE

requires

REGISTRAR/ EXAMINATIONS OFFICER

to deal with all matters relating to admissions and examinations, salary £2,648-£2,840. For interview, Tel. 01-235 3755 or write to the

Secretary,
IAAS,
20 Belgrave Square,
London, SW1.

ASSOCIATION OF COUNTY COUNCILS

EDUCATION OFFICER

(£14,178 x £294(3)—£15,060)

The Association invite applications by 12th April for the appointment of a successor to the present Education Officer, Mr L. W. K. Brown, CBE, BA, FCP, who retires this year.

This senior appointment carries considerable responsibility within the Secretariat of the Association and offers an exceptional opportunity to participate in policy making at national level and in representing the interests of county councils with particular reference to their responsibilities as local education authorities. Preference will be given to candidates with substantial experience in the administration of the education service.

The Association have in membership the 47 non-metropolitan county councils in England and Wales and have established (jointly with the Association of Metropolitan Authorities) the Council of Local Education Authorities (CLEA).

Further particulars and forms of application on request.

A. C. HETHERINGTON, Secretary.

EATON HOUSE, 66A EATON SQUARE, WESTMINSTER, SW1W 9BH

UNIVERSITY OF LONDON

ST. GEORGE'S HOSPITAL MEDICAL SCHOOL AND THE ROYAL DENTAL HOSPITAL SCHOOL OF DENTAL SURGERY

IN COLLABORATION WITH

CHELSEA COLLEGE

MAINTENANCE OFFICER

Fully qualified and experienced Maintenance Officer (Surveyor or Engineer) required by the Medical School to be responsible for the creation and administration of a buildings office service for all Medical and Dental School properties. Major new buildings (up to £7,000 a.m.) will be occupied later this year; others are at the planning stage.

The post is permanent and pensionable, with six weeks annual leave and carries a salary in the scale £3,214-£6,346 plus £450 London Allowance per annum.

Further particulars and application forms available from the Establishment Officer (V), St. George's Hospital Medical School, Blackshaw Road, Tooting, SW17 0QT, closing date 14th April.

DEVON

Grenville College, Bideford, A Woodard Independent School

Required for September, 1976 A GRADUATE to teach ECONOMICS to A level and BUSINESS STUDIES at O level. As this is a new post, initiative and enthusiasm are essential qualities. Ability to coach games would be an additional recommendation. This could be a residential post for single applicants. Burnham Scale One.

Apply to the Headmaster, Grenville College, Bideford, enclosing curriculum vitae and the names of two referees.

University of Aberdeen

CHAIR OF SYSTEMATIC THEOLOGY

Applications are invited for the above Chair which will be vacant on the retiral of Prof. J. K. S. Reid, C.B.E., D.D., on 30 September, 1976. The Department's responsibility includes the teaching of Christian Doctrine and Ethics and the Philosophy of Religion both to candidates for the ministry of the churches and to other categories of students.

Further particulars from The Secretary, The University, Aberdeen, with whom applications (3 copies) should be lodged by 1st April, 1976.

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF CITIZENS' ADVICE BUREAUX

SPECIALIST SERVICES OFFICER

The National Association of Citizens' Advice Bureaux provides an expanding and developing service of confidential and impartial information and advice through 870 Citizens' Advice Bureaux. These bureaux are serviced by a central team of staff who provide information, training and support services.

A Specialist Services officer is required to develop links between the CAB Service and organizations in fields where Bureaux may be giving specialist advice or taking action on behalf of clients—for example, legal, consumer and tribunal representation. Ability to talk and write clearly and to negotiate on behalf of the Service are required as well as a facility for getting on with people and knowledge of the CAB Service or related fields. Experience of public speaking an advantage.

Based at NACAB Central Office but with opportunity to visit other parts of the country. Salary on scale £5,500-£4,500 (but appointment unlikely to be made above £5,000) plus £135 p.a. London Weighting. Four weeks annual leave: superannuation scheme. Further details and application form from the Administrator, National Council of Social Service, 26 Bedford Square, London WC1B 3HU. 01-636 4066: or contact Jacob Rubein, Head of NACAB Information Department, if you would like to talk about the job.

CLOSING DATE 7 APRIL, 1976.

The Queen's University of Belfast

LECTURESHIP IN ECONOMICS

Applications are invited for the post of Lecturer in Economics, tenable from 1st June, 1976 or such other date as may be arranged. Candidates with interests in any field of Economics will be considered, but ability to teach quantitative aspects of the subject would be an advantage.

Salary scale £3,174 to £6,447 with contributory pension rights under FSSU. Initial placing on the salary scale will depend on qualifications and experience. Assistance is available with removal expenses.

Further particulars may be obtained from The Personnel Officer, The Queen's University of Belfast, BT7 1NN, Northern Ireland, to whom completed applications should be received not later than 30th April, 1976. (Please quote Ref. To.

CENTRE FOR ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES

ASSISTANT LIBRARIAN

required for developing Research Library to assist in the running of the library. The post would suit a recently qualified Librarian or about-one intending to make a career in library and information work, and wishing to gain special Library experience. Ability to type essential. Knowledge of French and German an advantage.

Salary: Unqualified, £1,383-£1,611. Qualified, £2,097-£3,870. Plus £345 London allowance. Day nursery on premises.

Applications, giving details of age, education, qualifications and experience, should be sent to:

The Librarian,
CES,
62 Chalcots Place,
London NW3 4HH.
Tel.: 01-340 5424, ext. 281.

Please quote Ref. T.A.L.

A VACANCY EXISTS for a tutor at the St. Lore's School of Occupational Therapy in Exeter. The policy of the School is progressive with regard to methods of training, instruction and maintaining high professional standards. Opportunity exists for taking the Teacher's Diploma. Subjects taught would be open to negotiation. Terms are of normal school length with 15 weeks holiday a year. Salary commensurate to experience. Applications are invited from qualified Occupational Therapists only to: The Principal, Miss K. M. Ingamells, Millbrook House, Millbrook Lane, Exeter, Devon.

University of Manchester

ASSISTANT LIBRARIAN

Applications invited for this post in the John Rylands University Library of Manchester. The appointee will be responsible for Law, E.E.C. Government and related publications. Salary range £3,174-£6,447 p.a. Superannuation. Good Honours degree in Law essential; research experience and/or library qualifications additional recommendations. Particulars and application forms (returnable by April 2nd) from the Registrar, the University, Manchester M13 9PL. Quote ref. 41 To T.

Money Which?

Magazine Published by the Consumers' Association

needs a

Financial Researcher

The person appointed will research and write reports on subjects such as borrowing, investment, tax and insurance. Qualities such as enthusiasm, a logical mind and the ability to explain complicated concepts in simple terms are more important than previous experience of the financial world. A degree in Economics and at least 18 months' working experience is desirable—though by no means essential. For further details, and an application form, contact:

The Assistant Personnel Manager, Consumers' Association, 14 Buckingham St., London WC2. 01-839 1222.

University of Edinburgh

INFORMATION OFFICER

Applications are invited for the post of Information Officer in the University.

The Information Officer will be expected to provide and maintain information services to all members of the University and to maintain relations with the media of communication; he/she will also be required to advise on public relations in general.

Salary will be on Administrative Grade 1A, 1B or 1C (inclusive) from £2,796 to £7,245 p.a. depending on qualifications and experience, superannuation under U.S.S. (F.S.S.U.).

Further particulars available from the Secretary to the University, Old College, South Bridge, Edinburgh, EH8 9YL, to whom applications (6 copies) with the names of two referees should be sent not later than 16th April, 1976. Please quote Reference 1980.

University of Birmingham

DEPARTMENT OF MUSIC

LECTURESHIP

Applications are invited for the above post in the Department of Music from 1 October 1976. No specialism is excluded, but the department is interested in applicants offering 20th century studies and/or opera (including stagecraft).

Salary on the lower part of the scale £5,174 to £6,447, plus superannuation.

Applications (six copies), naming three referees, should be sent by 15 April 1976 to the Assistant Registrar (Arts), University of Birmingham, P.O. Box 363, Birmingham B15 2TT, from whom further particulars may be obtained.

University of Southampton

DEPARTMENT OF BIOLOGY

Applications are invited for two posts of Lecturer in the Department of Biology.

Post 1.—Candidates should have a special interest in GENETICS or PLANT PHYSIOLOGY.

Post 2.—Candidates should have a special interest in ANIMAL ECOLOGY.

Successful candidates will be expected to contribute fully to the general teaching in the department.

Salary scale: £3,174-£6,447 per annum.

The initial salary will depend on qualifications and experience.

Further particulars from The Deputy Secretary's Section, The University, Southampton, SO9 5NH, to whom applications (seven copies) from U.K. applicants should be sent by April 26, 1976, quoting reference T 1460/A and T 2411/A, respectively.

Oxford University

Physical Chemistry Laboratory and St. John's College

Applications are invited for a joint appointment to a

DEPARTMENTAL DEMONSTRATORSHIP

in Physical Chemistry and a College Lectureship and/or Fellowship at St. John's College. The appointment is for two years from 1st October 1976 with the possibility of a renewal for a third year. The salary will be on the scale of University Lecturers and Officers Fellow. For further particulars of the Demonstratorship please write as soon as possible to Professor J. S. Bratsch, Physical Chemistry Laboratory, South Parks Road, Oxford, OX1 3QZ, who will also issue particulars of the College post.

University of Edinburgh

POSTDOCTORAL FELLOWSHIP IN SOMATOSENSORY PHYSIOLOGY

Applications are invited from suitably qualified persons for the post of Postdoctoral Fellow to join an S.R.C. supported research project on the mammalian physiology of the mammalian skinsal cord. Candidates should have experience in computing, including PDP 11 assembly code, or similar, and will join a team working on the dorsal horn of the spinal cord, with special reference to cutaneous sensory mechanisms.

Salary on the Range 1A Research Staff Scale (£2,796-£3,174) according to age and experience, for a fixed-term contract.

For further information contact Professor A. Iggo, Department of Physiology, Veterinary Clinical Studies, Summerhall, Edinburgh, EH9 1QH.

Applications, by letter (two copies), giving the names of two referees, should be sent to the Secretary to the University of Edinburgh, Old College, South Bridge, Edinburgh, EH8 9YL, not later than April 16th, 1976. Please quote Reference 5011.

University of Edinburgh

CENTRE FOR TROPICAL VETERINARY MEDICINE AND DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMICS

RESEARCH FELLOWSHIP IN ECONOMICS

Applications are invited for a Research Fellowship sponsored by the Overseas Development Administration (equable for a period of three years) for the Centre for Tropical Veterinary Medicine. The successful candidate will be mainly engaged in a collaborative analysis of veterinary research projects undertaken with aid of overseas governments. Applicants should have a good honours degree in economics with suitable postgraduate experience. Salary will be in the range £3,000-£3,400. The closing date for applications, which should be sent to the Department of Economics, University of Edinburgh, 50 George Square, Edinburgh, EH8 9JY, is 12 April, 1976. Please quote Reference 5/16.

University of St. Andrews

DEPARTMENT OF ANCIENT HISTORY

Applications are invited for a

LECTURESHIP

in the Department of Ancient History, tenable from 1st October, 1976. Salary at the commencement point on scale £3,174 to £6,446, starting salary probably not above £4,600. F.S.S.U. (U.S.S.).

Applications (two copies preferably in typescript) with the names of three referees should be lodged by 23rd April, 1976, with the Establishments Officer of the University, College Gate, St. Andrews, Fife, from whom further particulars may be obtained.

Secretarial and Non-secretarial Appointments also on pages 22 and 27

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Is applied career prospects mean you are a Counsellor with our International Personnel Service operating in 3 countries. You would be part of a professional and dedicated team providing a Counsellor service, assessing and helping to solve our client companies staffing problems, as well as interviewing and providing career guidance to job seekers.

We will prove an ambitious individual, keen to demonstrate initiative and achieve success. There are opportunities to move into Management, both in the UK and abroad.

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Eileen Anderson on 01-734 0911
DRAKE PERSONNEL
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DRAKE PERSONNEL
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INTERESTING POSITION

offered to person of 28 plus to join leading U.S. Hotel Group, W1 (close to Green Park Station) to handle reservations and general office duties. Must be accurate typist. Travel trade, hotel experience and languages an advantage. Write or telephone Marriott Hotels, 19-18 Dover St., W1.

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Good positions offered to responsible persons. Salary £2,500 and £1,650 respectively. Generous commission. Clothes allowance, etc. Applicants over 27 and 20 respectively.

PART-TIME Asst. also required.

PHONE: 589 0142 (mornings) for appointment.

VERY ATTRACTIVE P.A.

Aged 18-25 to assist Sales Executive on his P.A./Sales Aid. Must be able to organise his hectic day, arrange appointments, reservations, travel, etc. Driving an advantage. Must be free to travel extensively at short notice. Hours sometimes long but very flexible. Fair basic salary but initiative rewarded by very high bonuses up to £50 p.w. Ring Mr. Phillips, Sales Force Ltd.

01-730 4203

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Like to live over the kitchen of a top small country house hotel in Devon? Salary negotiable from £2,000 and all found: 5-day week; driver preferred.—For details telephone: Bromley — Poundsgate 230 (reverse charges only after 6 o.m.).

P.A. NO SHORTHAND!

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Phone Samantha on 01-580 4817 for interview

PART-TIME

Estate Agents require mature person living in the Kensington area. Pleasant telephone manner and accurate typing essential. Responsible position, able to work on own initiative. Flexible hours, salary £1,500-£1,000 neg. + LVs.

SUSAN HAMILTON PERSONNEL
53 St George's St. W.1.
499 8406/7.

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International company in Mayfair needs a Supervisor 25+ in our Secretarial Services Division. Must have secretarial experience and flair for administration. Knowledge of word processing an advantage. Good opportunity for secretary with audio to progress on to a higher level. Salary to £3,500 a.a.e.—Call Christian Watson at M. & J., 836 4737.

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Please telephone Miss Taylor 01-405 8212.

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CHURCHILL PERSONNEL

ETON COLLEGE.—Demo needed mid-April or September, 1976, to run domestic side of Eton boys' boarding house, including health, staff, accounts, and some catering. S.c. flat, school holidays, pensions scheme. Temporary appointment for summer term only would also be considered.—Apply: R. P. C. Forman, Common Lane House, Eton College. Tel.: Windsor 63916.

PART-TIME Assistant required by Managing Director to help with statistics. Fluent German, typing. Hours and salary by arrangement. Strand Law Courts area. Phone Mr Comfort, 405 4754/8083.

CORNWALL. 12 experienced Cordon Bleu girls for summer job running Bistro at Skerlack Surf Village. For details Skerlack, 55 South Audley St., London W1Y 5DJ.

BOOKKEEPER.—Part time: hours and salary neg. Service flat company. Baker St. 262 1179.

CLASSICAL MUSIC AGENCY requires telephonist/receptionist. Good audio typing. Salary friendly office. W.8. 229 9166.

ACCOUNTING & CLERICAL staff all categories and salary levels call Accountancy Employment. 629 0103.

SOLICITOR requires experienced Secretary probably mid 30's for general work in small friendly West End office. Audio and shorthand. Salary negotiable plus LVs. Ring 588 7795.

COME INTO ADVERTISING! 540 a week plus £1,33 LVs for Trainee Executives. Lively atmosphere. Knowledge useful. BOND STREET BUREAU 734 3351.

TOP INTERVIEWER wanted for Property Company in W.11. Lots of interesting planned contact. Initiative and excellent communication. Ring us now on 229 5441.

CROCODILE.—Assistant Manageress/Manager for our Crocodile styled clothes shops branch in High St. Kensington and our new branch opening shortly in New Bond St. Previous experience in selling and stock control would help. Recent references required. Apply Crocodile, 176 High St., Kens. W.8. 937 0735.

NURSE (Retired) required as soon as possible as companion for elderly lady in Johannesburg, South Africa. Please ring Terry Byrne, L.M.P. for further details. 01-437 3115.

A FRIENDLY, hard working person with an attractive personality is required to help run all aspects of a busy country inn. Experience not necessary. Accommodation available. Phone Helen Freemantle. Phone Helen Freemantle or write The Greenhouse, Staple Fitzpaine, nr. Taunton, Somerset.

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BIRTHS

FOX.—On March 16th in Philadelphia to Amanda (Hoskyns-Abrahall) and Burton K. Fox—a son. Address: 1011 Box 132 Quakertown Pa. 18951 U.S.A.

MACKINTOSH.—On March 18th to Jenny (nee Nogg) and Robert Mackintosh—a daughter.

MANN.—On March 19th to Gloria and Richard—a son (Philip Charles).

MOLIEUX.—On March 14th, at Elizabeth Garrett Anderson Maternity Home, to Ann (nee Richardson) and Ian—a son (Charles Antony Jonathan).

HOBLE.—On March 18th, to Margaret (Peake) and Peter—a son.

BIRTHDAYS

ROB DUHAMEL.—Happy 21st.—Love Sheila.

STOPFORD JACKS. "Newborn" octogenarian. Congratulations and love from all the family.

MARRIAGES

MORTON : SPARROW.—On March 20th in Bagwell, Middx., John Morton to Lesley Joan Sparrow.

OGENSLE : ATTENBOROUGH.—The marriage took place quietly on 20th March between Gunther, son of Frau Johanna Ocelsle, of Frankfurt, and the late Rudolf Ocelsle and Margaret, elder daughter of Dr. and Mrs John Attenborough, Cranberley, Surrey.

PRIESTNALL : CRAIG.—On March 20th, at St. Giles, W. Bridgford, Nottingham, Ian Priestnall to Sharon Craig.

DEATHS

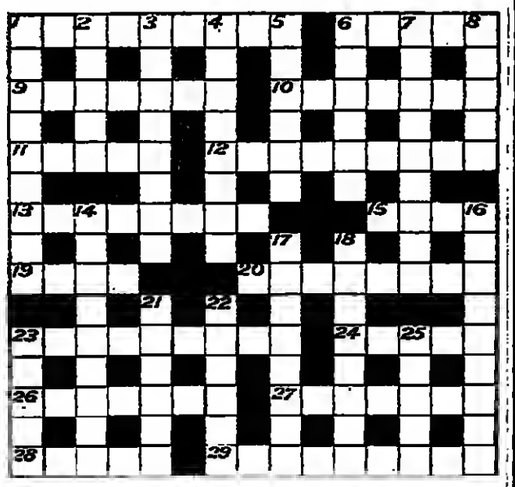
CLAYTON.—On March 14th 1976, peacefully at home, 17 Palmer Avenue, North Cheam, Surrey, William Joseph (Bill), aged 81, a much loved character has passed. Funeral at North East Surrey Crematorium, on Tuesday 23rd March, 11 a.m. Flowers to the above address.

COX.—On March 19th, 1976, at Norwood, Edith Cox, widow of Montague-Colonel H. C. S. Cox. Funeral at Whitbourne, Worcestershire, on 24th March, at 2.30 p.m.

DUFF.—On March 18th, 1976, in hospital, Lady Caroline, wife of Sir Michael Duff, of Vaynol. Funeral service at Chelsea Old Church, London, S.W.3, at 11.30 a.m., on Wednesday, March 24th, followed by private cremation. Flowers to be sent to the church. No letters, please.

EDWARDS.—On 20th March, 1976, in hospital, the Hon. Stella (nee Fox), deeply loved wife of William Neville Edwards and mother of Timothy and Jeremy and adored sister of Rosemary Tuson-Scott. Funeral private. At her request no flowers, but donations, if desired, to Cancer Research Fund.

The Times Crossword Puzzle No 14,257



ACROSS

1 Boastful musician uses his own instrument? (9).
6 "Woman waiting for her —" lover" (Coleridge) (5).
9 A Liberal object for Icelandic parliament (7).
10 Islander recording a chess capture (7).
11 A lean lover? (5).
12 Old engine gives smoother type of power (4, 5).
13 Cricket side gets Niger trip as gift (8).
15 Lodgings in Polar quarters (4).
19 A revolutionary act (4).
20 As nice as some of Shaw's plays (8).
23 Dry fellow, Tom's supporter (9).
24 Setback about order of books (5).
26 A subject people? (7).
27 One gets about £4 with one form of chrysolite (7).
28 Material mined in South Africa? (5).
29 Drink kept as a change from meat (4-5).

DOWN

1 Jog ride in nine? (9).
2 Speak as many night do indistinctly (5).
3 Ardent with crafty connexions? (8).
4 Dancer in new giant oil combine (8).
5 Means to press charges? (6).
6 A bit of speeding? Hydrofoil is the boat you need (6).
7 Doctor hurried to enter roughly-made notes (9).
8 I left Connie in resort for the time being (5).
14 Prudence needed by assuring bull-ring entrants? (9).
16 Toper with nothing to say, as it were (2, 2, 5).
17 Whereby to raise the level of oratory? (8).
18 Hypocrisy over rents resulted in bits of trickery (8).
21 Native quarters include well-ventilated retreat (6).
22 Burrowing animal with wood for the Ark (6).
23 Plowman's moles? (5).
25 State of the Oriental artmaster (5).

Solution of Puzzle No 14,256

DEATHS

ELPHICK.—On 20th March, peacefully in Oxted Hospital after a short illness, Catherine Mary, widow of Percy Thomas Elphick and dearest mother of Margaret and Scott. Certified by the rights of Holy Church. Requiem mass at All Saints Roman Catholic Church, Oxted, on Friday, 26th March, at 11 a.m. Flowers and inquiries to: Ernest Funeral service, High St., Lingfield. Tel: Dormansland 7.

EMENY.—On March 20th, 1976, at 10 Rolleston Rd., Boxford, Dorothy Wade Emery, dearly loved wife of the late Douglas Wade Emery, formerly of Cullifield, Wallasey, Montgomeryshire, mother of Myrtle and Josephine. Funeral service at Bedford Crematorium on Thursday, March 25th, at 3 p.m. Cut flowers only, please.

FORDHAM.—On March 17th, Ethel May, aged 97, of 17 Lancaster Park, Richmond, Surrey, widow of Tom and mother of Michael and the late Hallam and Merula, also grandmother and great-grandmother. Thanksgiving service and funeral at 3 p.m. Friday, March 26th, at Richmond Parish Church. Flowers to T. H. Sandars, Kew Rd., Richmond.

FOULIS.—Suddenly in Edinburgh, Graham Alexander, of Turret 41, Menorca, Spain, and 24 Lauder Road, Edinburgh, dearly loved husband of Barbara and stepfather of Robert and Jenny. Cremation at Warriston Crematorium, Edinburgh, Wednesday, 23rd March, at 11.15 a.m.

FRANKLIN.—On March 16th, 1976, peacefully at her home in Fareham, Mary Elizabeth (Dolly) widow of the late Harry Franklin of Grimsby. Dearly loved mother of Olive Hemsley, Grandmother and Great Grandmother. Funeral at St. Nicholas Church, Great Coates, Immingham, on Thursday, 25th March at 11 a.m. Flowers to Kettle Ltd., Cranville St., Grimsby.

GOODLIFFE.—On March 20th after a short illness, Michael, beloved husband of Peggy and father of Nicholas, Jonathan and Roger. No letters, no flowers, please.

HANKEY.—On March 21st at Swan Court Helena Constance (Dodo), widow of Colonel Sydney Hankey. Funeral private.

HARRID.—On March 16th, 1976, Molly (nee Trubridge), of Surrey, Farm, near Wellcombe, Somerset, and formerly of Wychwood, Compton, nr. Guildford, Surrey, much loved mother of Martin Elizabeth (Lisa) and Margaret, and widow of Major A. Harrod, MC. Cremation at Taunton Deane, N. 3.30 p.m. on Monday, March 22nd, 1976. Flowers to Butchers Ltd., High St., Taunton.

NOW.—On March 19th, 1976, in King Edward VII Hospital, Midhurst, Stella Alethea Now, beloved wife of Lieut.-Col. R. W. W. Now, widow of Col. F. A. Tucker.

ILBY.—On March 17th, 1976, Thomas Metcalfe, O.B.E., of Rethope, Co. Durham, devoted husband of the late Catherine Harwood and much loved father and father-in-law of Katherine and Brian, Ann and Neville and proud grandfather of David, Christopher, Michael, Jonathan and Timothy. Funeral service at St. Andrews United Reformed Church, Eastbourne, Sussex on Friday, March 26th at 12 noon, followed by cremation at Eastbourne crematorium. Ministry of Labour and L.L.D. colleagues and old friends welcome. Flowers to Hains & Sons, 10 South Street, Eastbourne, or donations to Dr. Barnardo's Home if preferred.

IRELAND.—On Thursday, 18th March, suddenly but very peacefully at home Phyllis Catherine of Virginia Cottage, Lodonham, Lincoln, much loved wife of the late George Douglas Ireland. Funeral service St. Peters Church, North Rauceby, 2.30 p.m., Tuesday 23rd March, followed by interment Rauceby Churchyard. Flowers to Sauerbys Funeral Service, Sleaford, Lincolnshire.

JONES.—On 18th March, at Glanton Hospital, Swansea, Geraldine June, beloved wife of the late Brigadier John Keane Jones and mother-in-law of Nicholas and Poppy. Resting at Williams of Swansea, Chapel of Rest (where flowers may be sent) until Tuesday, leaving Chapel of Rest 11 a.m., then to Morgan Crematorium arriving 11.30 a.m.

LASCELLES.—On 19th March, Rose, wife of the late Henry Lascelles. Funeral private.

LOW.—On March 19, Alba Mildred Rhoda Low, O.B.E., of 87 Vera Avenue, London, N.21, beloved sister of Mrs. Winifred Woodward, after a long illness and much suffering bravely borne. Funeral private.

MIDDLETON.—On March 18th, at the Gordon Hospital, Sirl, George Ernest, of Sporning, Sussex, formerly of the B.B.C., London. Beloved father of Sheila. Funeral service at Colders Green crematorium on Thursday, March 25th, at 11.30.

PHILLIPS.—On March 19th, 1976, after a short illness in Belfast, Eileen Dorothy Phillips, M.B.E., Emeritus Prof., of Queens University, aged 65, dear husband of Helen and father of Laura Verdonnet, Stephen Phillips and Sophie Grayson. No flowers.

SHELDRICK.—On March 20th, 1976, suddenly, Ernest Frederick Sheldrick, aged 73, at the Manor House, Fowlmere, Royston, Hertfordshire. Funeral private. No flowers by request, but donations, if desired, to the British Heart Foundation, 57 Gloucester Place, W.1.

SKENE.—On 19th March, 1976, finally at peace, Kenneth Charles Scott Skene, M.R.C.P., M.R.C.S., of Wilkesden, beloved husband of Kaye and devoted father to John, Donald, Billy, Richard, Nerys and Andrew. Urnula Regia Mercos. Funeral service at Golders Green Crematorium, Thursday, 25th March, 1976, at 4 p.m. Family flowers only please, but donations may be sent to The Rendon Branch, British Red Cross Society. Enquiries to J. H. Kenyon Ltd. Tel: 01-733 3277.

SMART.—On 20th March, 1976, at home, Harold Leslie Harwood Smart, beloved husband of Moira and father of Sydney, Adrian and Philip. Cremation private, family flowers only, but if desired donations may be sent to the British Heart Foundation, 57 Gloucester Place, London, W.1.

STRACHEY.—On 20th March, at 25 Park Town, Oxford, Richard Philip Tarquhar Strachey, aged 73.

THACKER.—On 15th March, 1976, at a Cambridge nursing home, Edith May, wife of Clarice Thacker, CBE, of 56 Gough Way, Cambridge, and formerly of Brentwood, Essex. Funeral service at Cambridge Crematorium on Wednesday, March 24th, at 11.30 a.m. No flowers. Donations to British Red Cross Society, 9 Grosvenor Crescent, London, S.W.1.

DEATHS

TAYLOR.—On March 19th, suddenly, Frederick John Dryden Taylor, aged 61, in Melbourne, much loved husband of Elizabeth and father of Hilary.

WHITWELL.—On March 19th, peacefully at Monte Quanta, Lucignano, Italy, Peter Francis Dewsnap Whitwell of Hove, the Princess de Ligne's and father of Alexandra, R.I.P.

MEMORIAL SERVICES

DOSSETOR.—A Service of Remembrance for Mrs. Joan Mekins Dossetor (one Calder), M.B.E., formerly of 37-39, Knightsbridge, London, S.W.1 and Edinburgh, Territorial Army Nursing Service, 1914-1920 and Former Chief Nursing Officer of The London County Council, will be held St. Paul's Church, Wilton Place, London, S.W.1, on Thursday, 25th March, at 12.15 p.m.

GODWIN.—There will be a tribute to Tony Godwin at The Painters Hall, 9 Little Trinity Lane, London, E.C.4, at 3.30 p.m. this Wednesday, 24th.

PRYCE.—A memorial service for Professor Daniel Martin Pryce, M.D., will be held at St. Mary's Hospital, Praed Street, W.2, on Thursday, 8th April, at 12 noon.

YOXALL.—A service of thanksgiving for the long life of Lawrence S. Yoxall, CBE, will be held at St James, Piccadilly, London, W1, at 11 noon on Wednesday, 28th April, 1976.

IN MEMORIAM

CHADWICK, MAJOR HARRY PIERS, killed in Malaya while serving with the Green Howards. Never forgotten.—Ena, Patricia, Adrian and Jason.

BEAUMONT, BINKIE. Time remembered.—Love John.

RIDDELL, ADA ("Brown").—In remembrance of Ronald's mother.—ARTO.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

FINDHORN AT EASTER

Foot-day introduction to capture the spirit of this remarkable new age community. Sen "Star Alive" BM.21. Tuesday, March 23rd.

Details The Churchill Centre 01-402 9473.

THE CONCORDE BALL at Crosteggar House on Saturday, 1 May, 1976, will bring together in a true spirit of Entente Cordiale "all those wishing this superb Anglo-French project success." Details and further information 01-223 8221 27/28.

AGE ACTION YEAR 1976. Please help to improve the quality of life of some needy and lonely old people, by leaving a donation or bequest in National Benevolent Fund for the Aged, 15 Liverpool Street, London, E.C.2.

BRITISH CONCERT PIANIST giving broadcasts or works of Elgar, Hoare and others in Paris. Seeks either sponsors or interest in so. Box 0179 P, The Times.

CAN YOU SPARE ONE Sunday afternoon a month? Contact lonely volunteer visitors to take out lonely old people.—01-230 0630.

A.G.M. to lately taxpayer years brother. Eternal love.—MJM.

SOUTHAMPTON based Auto Electric Company. T/O £80,000.—see Businesses for Sale.

JULIA.—Important message in wine and dine.—James.

SMOKING, overweight, fears, etc. P. J. Allinson.—See Services col.

PENFRIENDS WORLDWIDE.—or deb a write Mailbag Pub 23, P.O. Box 656, Havelock North, New Zealand.

NURSE (retired) for Johannesburg.—see Non-Secretarial.

RITA AND ENIAN.—Sufferers and Saleddonists. Thank you.—C.N. & J.P.

CHARLES, THE FLAT starts this week. Yes Rodney, soon be May and York Place!

YOUNG amapuanis offers services in a voluntary capacity; are you interested?—Box 0173 P, The Times.

CODE 3. Top small hotel, Oxton. See Non-Sec. Appts.

REDECORATING OR ALTERATIONS? See Business in Business.

REST VALUE air fares. See Major Travel. See Hols. & Villas.

A NEW KITCHEN? Free report on kitchen furniture. 205 2269.

EVANGELICAL Boy's Public School requires substantial gift to complete Development Appeal. See No 0177 P, The Times.

ETON COLLEGE OAME. See Non-Sec. Appts.

KIND COMPANION / Housekeeper wanted.—See Domestic Situations.

SORRY ABOUT HARRODS 3 p.m. Friday. Place phone. S.T.

WITNESS 1 million (31-38 March) in memory of 1 million children killed in the UK under the Law Abortion Act.—Life, 33 Kenilworth Road, Leamington Spa, Warwickshire.

PERSONAL COLUMNS
ALSO ON PAGE 27

ANNOUNCEMENTS

URGENT

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SAT 27 MAR-SAT 10 APR
Meribel, Roches Blanches 1 three bedded room .. £147
Tignes, Tournavel ..... 1 man in three £147

SAT 3 APR-SAT 17 APR
Serre Chevalier, Elch'mahel 1 twin ..... £13[illegible]
Meribel, Roches Blanches .. 1 man in twin ..... £14[illegible]
Tignes, Tournavel ..... 1 double ..... £14[illegible]

SAT 3 APR-SAT 17 APR
Serre Chevalier, Elch'mahel 1 double, 2 men ..... £12[illegible]
Courchevel 1650, M'quetaires 1 man in three ..... £17[illegible]
Courcheval 1650, sugine .... 1 man in twin ..... £14[illegible]

SUN 4 APR-SUN 18 APR
St Anton, Weber ..... 2 twins, 2 threes .... £11[illegible]

SAT 10 APR-SAT 17 APR
Serre Chevalier, Elch'mahel 1 three, 1 double .... £[illegible]
Sauze d'Oulx, Rascard .... 2 twins ..... £[illegible]
Courchevel 1650, M'quetaires 3 men in three, 1 single, 1 twin ..... £9[illegible]

SAT 10 APR-MON 19 APR
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SUN 11 APR-SUN 18 APR
Lech, Sonnblick ..... 3 singles, 1 three .... £[illegible]
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